〈詠の二十五〉

しづたまの雪止みて
茫漠となるもれど
はや何処にも鳥はゐめや

アフタヌーンKC

無限の住人

むげんのじゅうにん

25

沙村広明

アフタヌーン
KC591

無限の住人

25

沙村広明

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あのモブは、今……

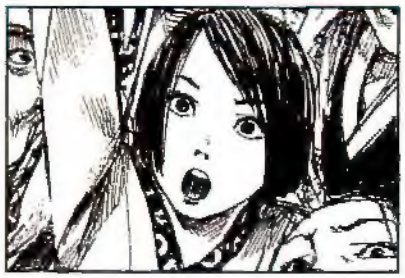
【第十六回・少女編】

毎度おなじみ、千葉で人気のこのコーナー。
今回は、ドラマを彩ったモブヒロインたちの
気になるその後を大紹介!
来週もモブと地獄へつきあってもらう!

No.48 お市

わずか5歳にして「物欲しそうな顔をするだけで男に貢がせる術」を覚えてしまった少女。以後魔性の女として人生を謳歌する事になる。
「決して口に出してはいけないの。切ないフリ。欲のないフリ。男ってバカだからそれで十分なのよ。でも私はそんなバカな男が愛しくて仕方ないわ。それだけはフリじゃあないわね」
美しく成長した彼女は煙管をくゆらせて笑った。しかしその積もった業が重すぎたのか、あるいは想い果たせぬ男たちの怨念か、文化4年永代橋の崩落に巻き込まれ、23歳の短い生涯を閉じた。

No.49 お光



わずか7歳にしてアジテーターとしての才能に目覚めてしまった少女。16歳の時「子女を解放する会」を結成するも1年で解散。しかしその煽動能力を買われ、以後日本各地で起こった数々の反幕運動・攘夷運動・百姓一揆にゲスト参加。魔性の女としての人生を歩む事になる。
「私の言葉はカラッポなのよ。ただ男たちの魂の火種を大きくするのが他人より上手なだけ。カラッポで綺麗な私の言葉で男たちが炎を吐き、舞い踊り、やがてはその炎で自らを焼くのよ。愉快でたまらないわ!」
美しい顔をゆがめて彼女は笑う。文化5年、26歳のお光は長崎で英国の軍艦フェートン号に密航し欧州に渡った。折しもフランス革命の嵐吹き荒れる欧州。彼女はそこで炎に焦がれる男たちを恍惚の眼差しで見守ったのか、あるいはその火に巻き込まれ今度こそ身を焼かれたのか、その後の行方は杳として知れていない。

アクション・コミックス
無限の住人
むげんのじゅうにん
25
沙村広明

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL VOLUME 25 TEAM
TRANSLATION: INUZAMURAI
PROOF-READER: SMALL___KID
TYPESETTER: NAGASHIWA & ABSOLUTECOLOR
CLEANER: NAGASHIWA / ABSOLUTECOLOR
QUALITY CHECK: NAGASHIWA
END EDITOR: NAGASHIWA

沙広明

ANOTSUU TRANSLATE VERSION OF VOLUME 26
WILL BE OUT SOON!

❖ THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 3__003
❖ THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 4__033
❖ THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 5__063
❖ THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 6__093
❖ THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 7__125
❖ NOURISHMENT PART 2_____155
❖ LOWERED WINGS_____185

❖第百六十三幕❖

霏々として

——〈其の三〉

CHAPTER 163
THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 3

WHO IS SHE?!
IS SHE A NINJA...?

JEEZ, IT'S SO COLD...
BUT SHIRA IS WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT ... WHY WOULD HE RAISE HIS SWORD AGAINST HER? DOES SHE SERVE ANOTHER MASTER?

Stay out of this!
HEY YOU!
I MIGHT BE HALF-DEAD ALREADY ...
... BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO GET BAILED OUT BY A GIRL!
GO! OUT OF THE WAY!

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN SHIT ABOUT YOU AT ALL!
I STILL HAVE A BONE TO PICK WITH THIS GUY!
HUH?
WHAT'YA SAYING, LITTLE PEBBLE AT THE WAY-SIDE?!
SO, FUCK OFF!
DON'T YOU DARE...
...GET IN MY WAY!
PYUU
.....

ISN'T THAT TAITO MAGATSU ...?
WAIT A SEC...!
WHY AM I HELPING SOMEONE FROM ITTO-RYU...?!
ACTU-ALLY....
...SHIRA IS ON OUR SIDE.
IF I FIGHT HIM...
...I WON'T BE ANY BETTER THAN ITTO-RYU OR MANJI.
SHIT!

I SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL MAGATSU BIT THE DUST...
WELL, WELL ...!
OLD HABAKI'S SLIPPING LITTLE BY LITTLE.
IN THE MUGAI-RYU DAYS HE PUT FAR MORE EFFORT INTO THE NEW ONES.
HH ?!

R-UPS
DO YOU BELONG TO MIRAI'S SPECIAL FORCE...?
OR ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

WHAT ?
MAD-NESS...! THIS SPEED..!

弾！

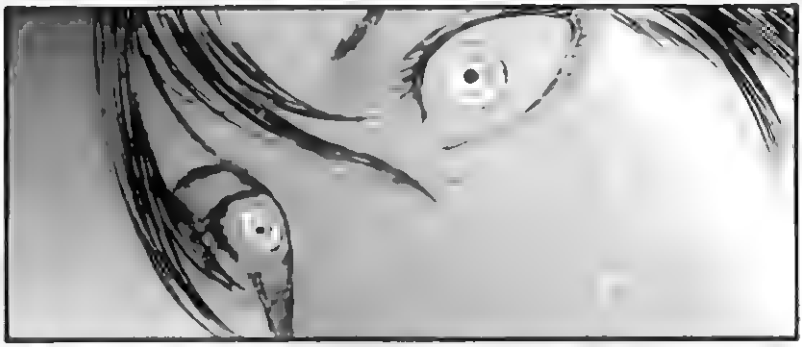
SUCH A DIRTY TRICK!
HERE OF ALL PLACES IT'S FORTIFIED WITH IRON!
PFAAH
!

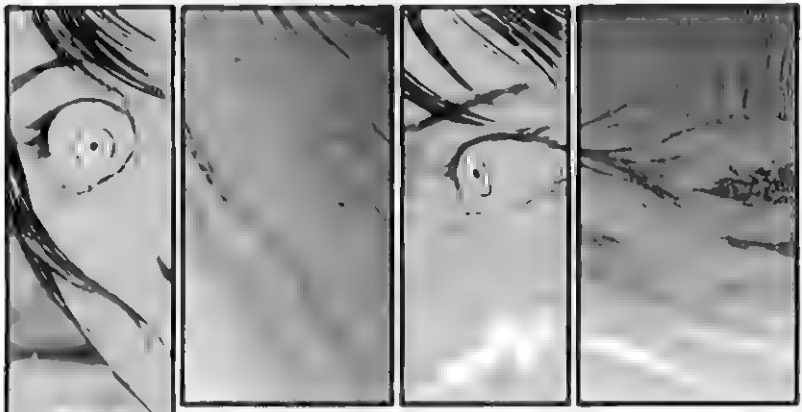
NO, I DON'T...
YOU GOT A KNIFE OR A DAGGER OR ANYTHING TO CUT?
HEY, BOY..
HM... THAT'S BAD.
B-BUT ...
THE MAN.
HAD A DAGGER WHEN HE JUMPED INTO THE WATER
IT MUST BE SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE

WHILE YOU'RE BEING NICE....
... MAY I ASK YOU FOR ONE MORE THING?
UNDER-STOOD! THANK YOU ...
...WOULD YOU HELP ME TO GET THEM OUT OF THE WATER?
ASSUMING I MANAGE TO GET THEM UP HERE ALIVE...
!
WELL? IN CASE THEY ARE STILL ALIVE ...
OKAY, BUT ONLY THE GIRL.

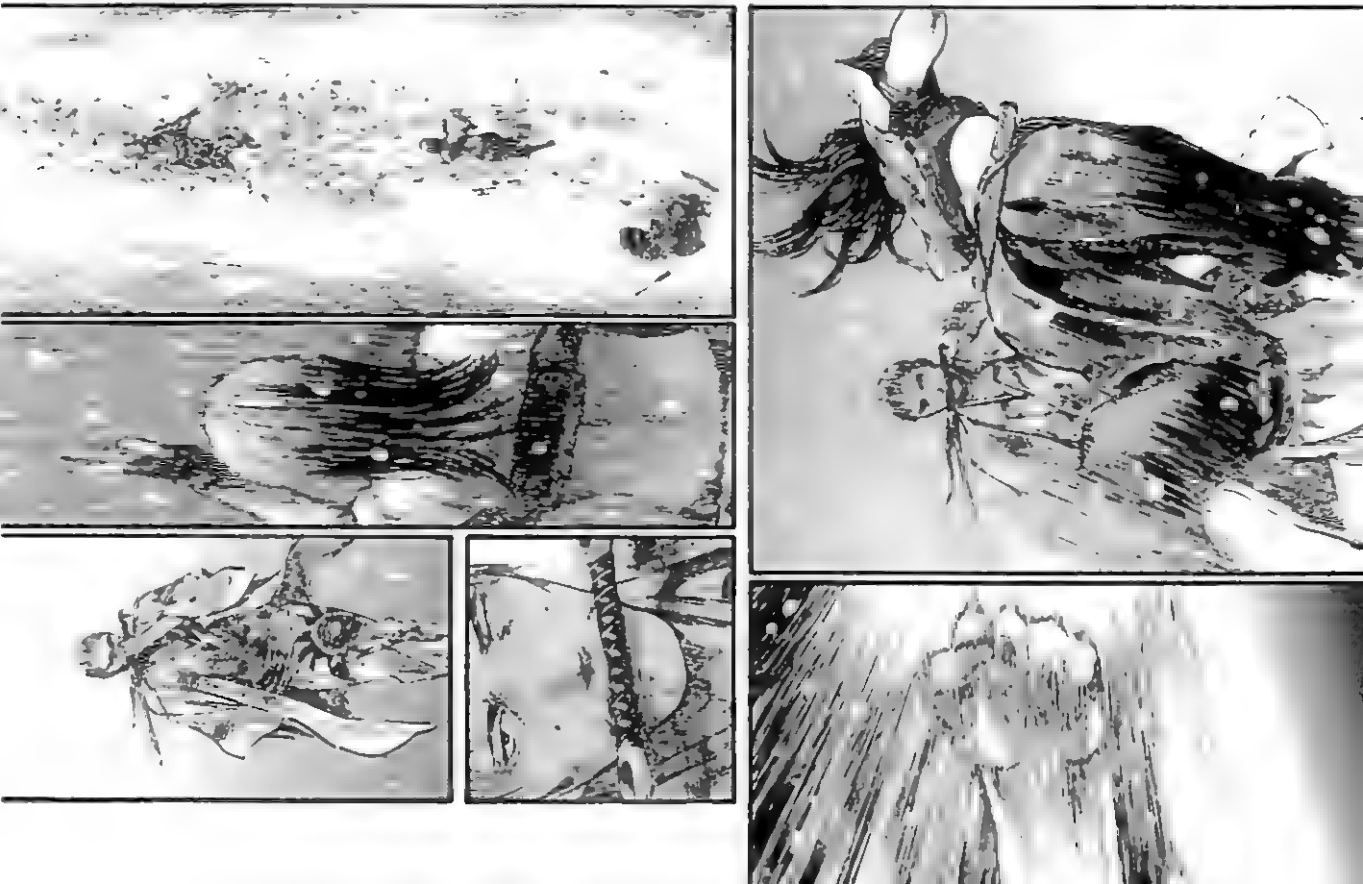
THANK YOU!
THAT'S A BIG HELP!
.....

COME ON, OPEN
YOUR EYES.
OTHERWISE SHIN
WILL DIE!





WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?



.....
DAMNIT!
SHIRA SURE NOTICED ALREADY.
THAT GIRL...

...CAN'T KILL HIM.
NOT ONLY THAT...
...SHE CAN'T EVEN STOP HIM.
I KNOW ONLY ABOUT TWO PEOPLE...
...WHO FIGHT LIKE THIS.

SUCH SPEED ITSELF ...
... IS A GREAT THING.
PURE SPEED CAN ...
... PREVAIL OVER BONE-BREAKING POWER.

OZU-
HAN
...
...STOOD OUT DUE TO HIS CRAZY LOOKS BUT AS A FIGHTER HE'S ALMOST PERFECT.
HIS SPEED WAS INHERENT HIS MARTIAL ARTS BEYOND COMPARISON BUT THE ACTUAL FRIGHTENING THING WAS
THE PRECISION OF HIS MOVEMENTS, THANKS TO HIS EAGLELIKE VISION HE COULD AIM EXACTLY AT THE THROAT OF A FOE TO SLIT IT OPEN.
THE MARTIAL ARTS OF DOA YOSHINO
...
... THE GIRL WHO CAME FROM THE NORTH ...
...
NOBODY BESIDES THE BOSS HAS SEEN HER WITH THEIR OWN EYES

I REMEMBER CLEARLY WHEN I MET DOA AND ISAKU FOR THE FIRST TIME.
NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH A SWORDSMAN WITH SUCH A HEADSPINNING SPEED.
I WAS THINKING THAT HER SWORD WAS LACKING WEIGHT...
BUT SHE DISPLACES HER WHOLE BODYWEIGHT INTO HER SWORD.
HER ARMS MIGHT BE THIN, BUT WITH THE IMPACT OF 10KAN
... DOA HITS A FULLGROWN MAN INTO PIECES.
1 KAN = APPROX. 3.75 KG / 8.3 LBS
NOT EVERY FOE WITH A SLIT OPEN STOMACH DIES.
BUT NOBODY WILL SURVIVE A CHOPPED OFF HEAD.
IF IT'S ONLY ABOUT STOPPING THE ENEMY, THEN IT'S ENOUGH TO CUT OFF AN ARM OR A LEG.
COME ON, ISAKU, TRY IT!
SUGO !!!
I CAN'T ...

MA-
GATSU
...
IN CASE YOU EVER HAVE TO FIGHT MANJI AGAIN
...
WHAT I AM TRYING TO SAY IS: WITH THE RIGHT TECHNIQUE, EVERY MEMBER OF ITTO-RYU IS ABLE TO KILL AN IMMORTAL PERSON.
... THEN REMEMBER THESE WORDS CLEARLY.

BUT IN THIS CASE ...
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT.
HE HE HE ...
YOU CAN ONLY BUSTLE AROUND HELPLESSLY, LITTLE BLOWFLY!

WHAT! WHY DOES HE OF ALL PEOPLE HAVE TO BE IMMORTAL?!
JUST AS I THOUGHT
FUCK! I HAVE KNOWN THIS BEFORE
YOU CAN'T KILL HIM BY CUTTING HIS FLESH OR SUCH
YOU CAN ONLY STOP HIM BY SHATTERING HIS BONES

BUT THE GIRL WON'T ACCOMPLISH THAT!
IT'S OBVIOUS. SHIRA CERTAINLY NOTICED IT TOO.

WHY IS THAT GUY STILL ALIVE?!
... BUT THAT'S ALL.
? ?
THE GIRL MIGHT BE FAST ...
CHAPTER 163 END

❖第百六十四幕❖

罪々として

CHAPTER 164

THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 4

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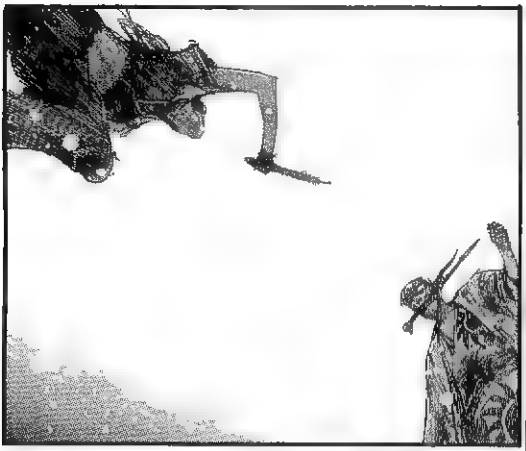
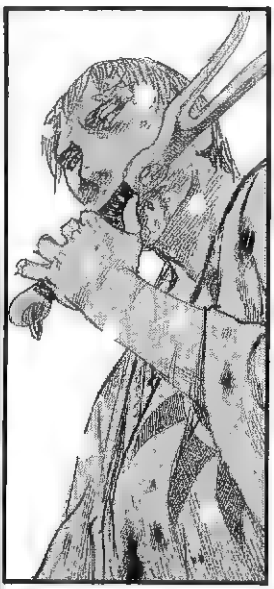
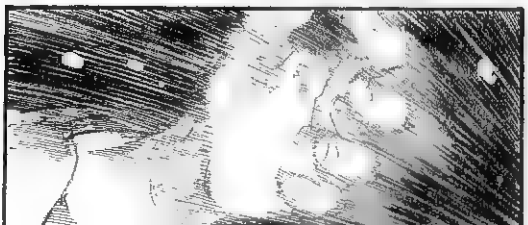






JUST AS I THOUGHT

HER ARMS ARE THIN.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HER WEIGHT IN A FIGHT. SHE'S ONLY GOT HER SPEED.
SHE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST SHIRA.
SHIRA'S TRYING TO CATCH THE GIRL ALIVE.
HE WANTS TO CATCH HER WITHOUT KILLING HER.
Lup!
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO IMAGINE WHY ...
BWA-HAHA-HAHA!
IN SPITE OF ALL MY HITS YOU'RE STILL STANDING STRAIGHT! I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
RESPECT!
I ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THIS!
AND WHAT NOW ...?

KID, YOU'RE BEYOND HELP...
YOU'RE ALL TALK AND CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE SUPERIOR...
... ALTOUGH YOU'RE ALREADY OUT OF BREATH.

OUGH...!

IF SHE ONLY REALIZED THAT !
SHE OVER EXERTS HERSELF FASTER THAN HIM AND EVERY TRICK BECOMES OLD AT SOME POINT
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET
FUH ...!
THAT WAS CLOSE
BUT THERE IS NOT MUCH HOPE
KYAAAH!

SO THAT SHIRA WON'T FOLLOW THE OTHER GIRL?
I'M WONDERING...
WHY IS SHE DOING THIS, IF NOT FOR MY SUPPORT?
WAIT...
SHIRA ALSO WENT TO THE LAKE SHORTLY AND CAME BACK AGAIN.
AND WHAT WAS SHIRA DOING WHEN I CAME HERE?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? WHAT HAS THE GIRL SEEN AT THE LAKE?

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO PROVOKE SHIRA AND TO RUN AWAY AFTER
BUT THEN THIS FIGHT IS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY
WELL, THAT'S IRRELEVANT
SHE NOT ONLY LACKS BRAINS
BUT OF STRATEGIC SKILLS TOO

BWAH HAHA HAHAA!!

I knew you would come from there!!
KCH!

HEY, I'LL PEE ON YOU!!!
AAAH HH!
REGARD-LESS OF THE SITUA-TION...
...TO COME TO SOME-BODY'S HELP.
AND IT'S ALSO FORBID-DEN...
... TO ASK FOR HELP IN A DUEL ...
FOR AN ITTO-RYU IT'S FORBID-DEN...

...UN-
ARMED
WOMAN
WITHOUT
HESITATION
WHOEVER
LAYS HIS
HANDS ON
A PEACE-
FUL...
...IS A
FILTHY
CRIMI-
NAL.

BUT

EVEN IF THERE IS A DREADFUL DEATH IN THE END ...
TO LIVE AND TO DIE ON YOUR OWN WILL IS THE GREATEST LUXURY THERE IS.
IF A WOMAN REACHES FOR THE SWORD HERSELF AND LIVES IN THE WORLD OF MEN...
...SHE CAN'T EXPECT TO RECEIVE ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT.
(.....
HE, HE, HE
THEN WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT? THAT'S CRAZY ...

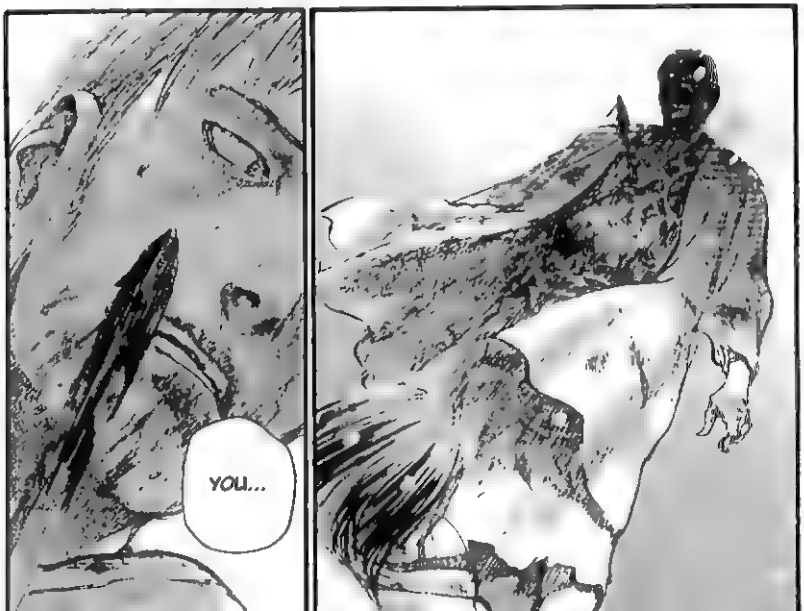
WHY DID I HELP THAT GIRL...?!
WELL...
HA..HA... HA!
... GO!
... ME ...
LET ...

HA, HA!
BUT THE RIGHT ARM ISN'T JUST FOR DECORATION!
I ONLY USED THE SWORD WITH MY LEFT AND YOU FELL FOR THAT
!?
IT SERVES ME BETTER THAN MY LEFT ONE
I CAN EVEN KILL WITH IT

HEY...!
YOU GOT A POTTY MOUTH...
DAMNIT! STOP THIS SHIT!
JUST KILL ME!
...AND YOUR HEAD IS EMPTY.
...YOUR SWORD SKILLS ARE GOOD FOR NOTHING...
A NICE FACE AND FAST LEGS, NOTHING MORE.
あわあお

WHAT THE HECK! STOP ACTING LIKE A TODDLER!
HUH?
BUWAAAAAH!
PLEASE ...
...FOR-GIVE ME!
I'M SORRY, MASTER !!!
PLESE FORGIVE ME MASTER!!
.....?

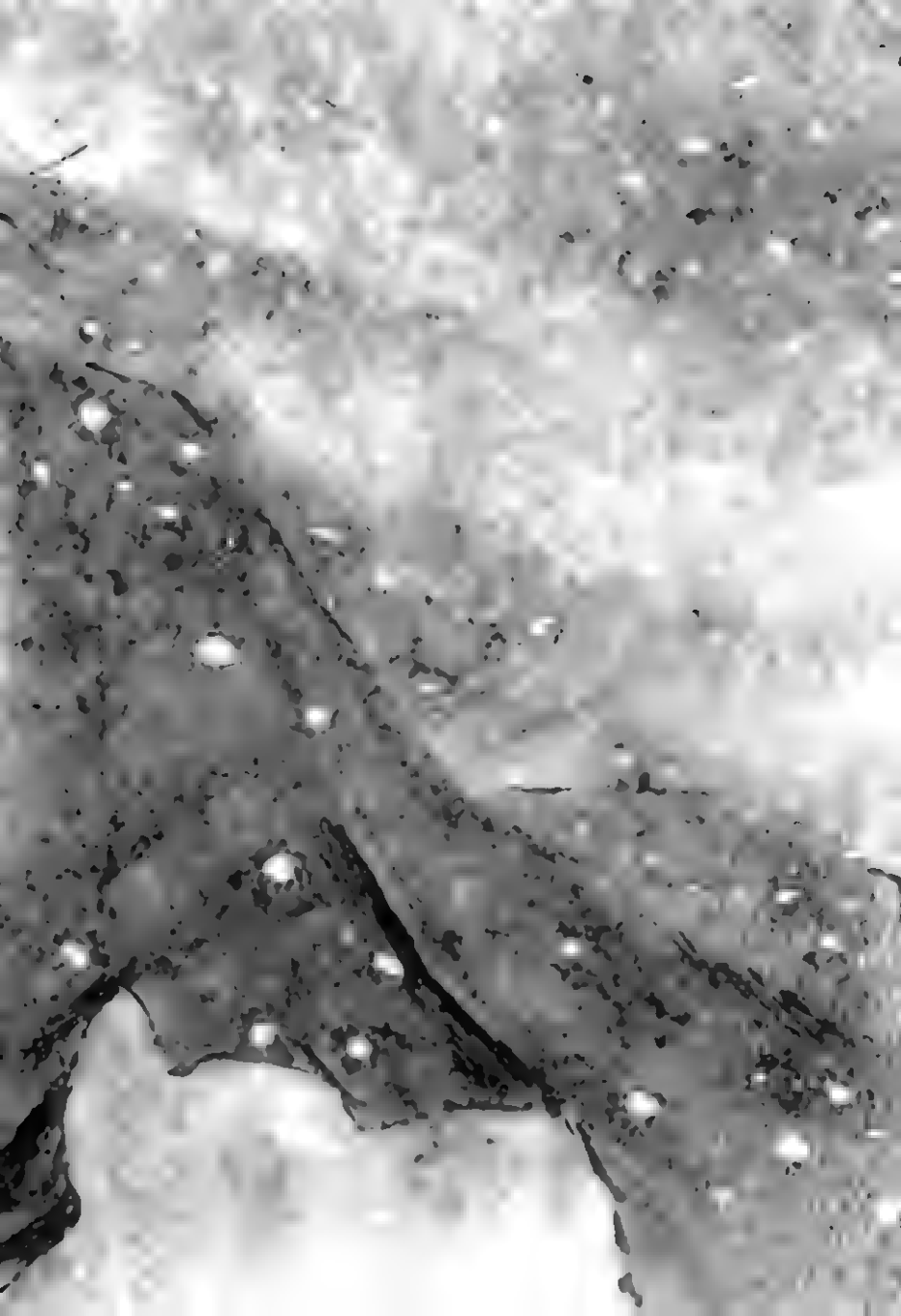
HA, HA...
MAN, THAT'S NOTH-ING!
I...
...JUST CAN'T TAKE WATCHING A YOUNG GIRL GET KILLED.
すとん


YOU...

...
FILTHY
....!
HE, HE, HE.
ACTUALLY WITHOUT HER...
SO THAT'S QUITE A GOOD REASON TO HELP...
... WE WOULD HAVE GOT TO THIS POINT A LOT FASTER.

NOW I HAVE TO GET READY ...
... I HAVE TO CHOP HIM OFF AT LEAST A LEG.
I'M NOT GOING TO WIN THIS FIGHT.
BUT BEFORE I LET HIM TAKE MY HEAD...
IF THIS ISN'T A BAD JOKE...!
THAT SHOULD GIVE THE GIRL ENOUGH TIME TO FLEE.

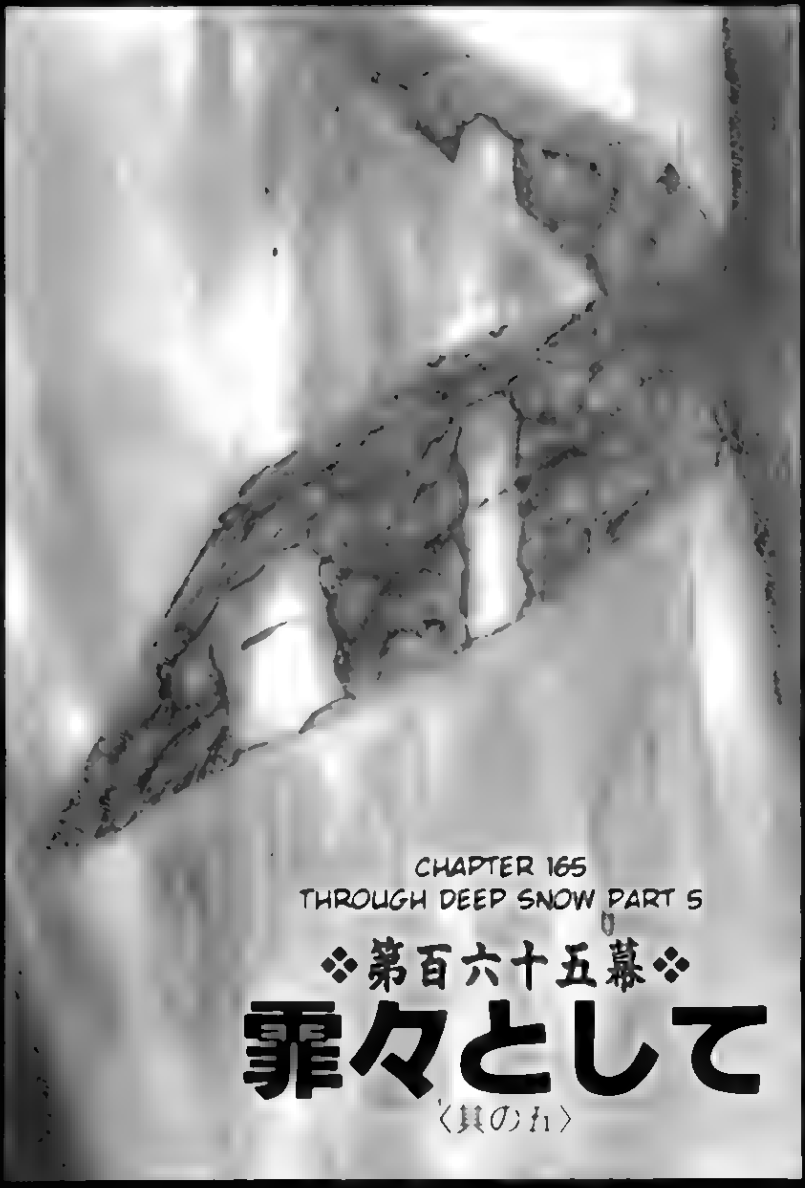
TO GET KILLED BY A GUY YOU'VE ALREADY KILLED ONCE



HE HE HE
MAN...!?

WELL, WHAT'S UP WITH THE GIRL?!
NAAA?!

CHAPTER 164 | END



CHAPTER 165
THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 5

❖第百六十五幕❖

罪々として

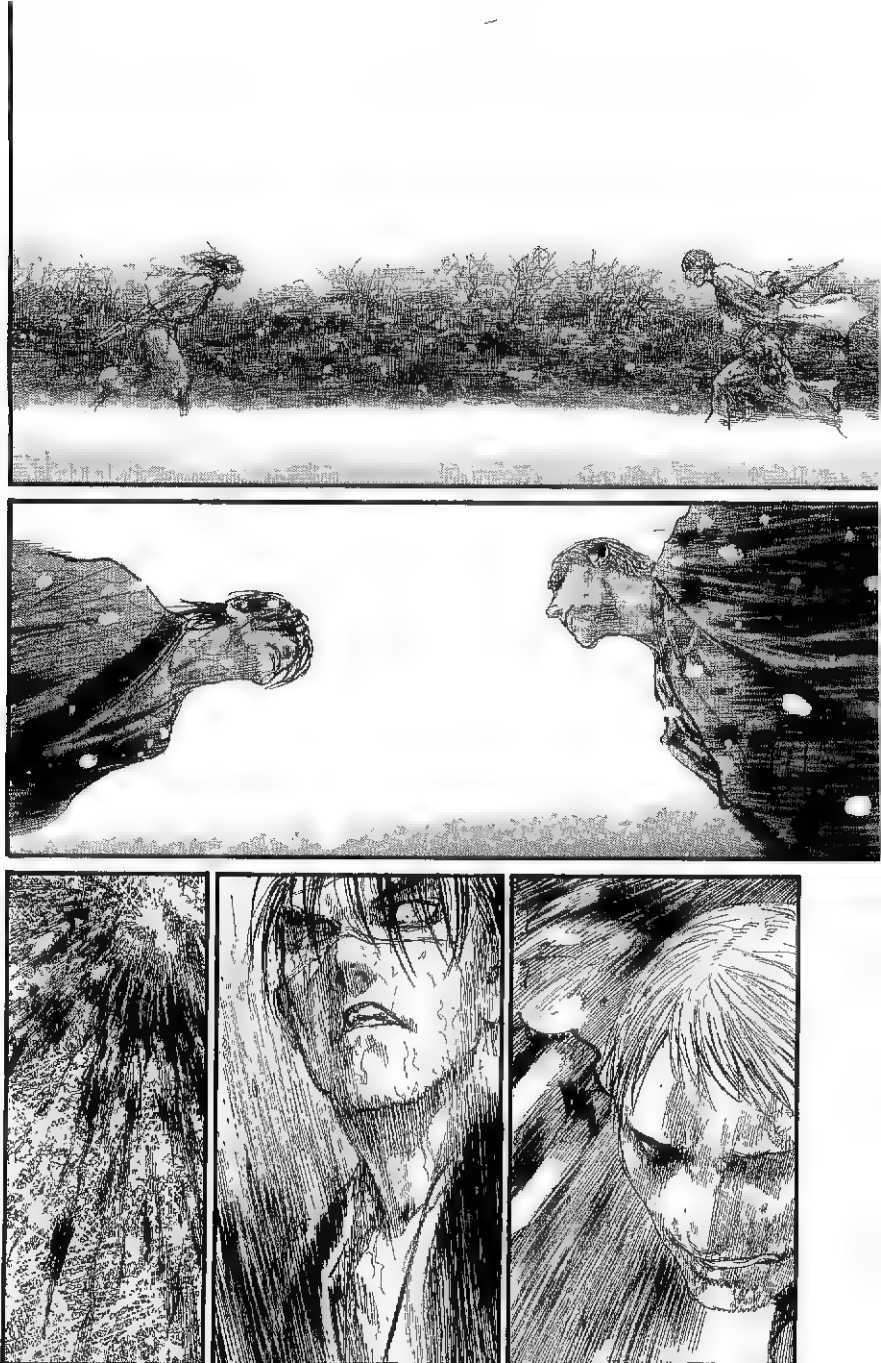
〈其の五〉

HE, HE ... WELL, MANJI ...
TELL ME!
WHAT'S ABOUT THE KID WHO TOOK A COLD BATH, HUH?!

...
COULDN'T SAVE HER.
I ...
AGAINST YOUR TRAP
I WAS COMPLETELY HELPLESS
HON-ESTLY
SHIRA ...

I NEVER EXPECTED TO GET BACKED INTO THE CORNER BY YOU LIKE THIS AGAIN.

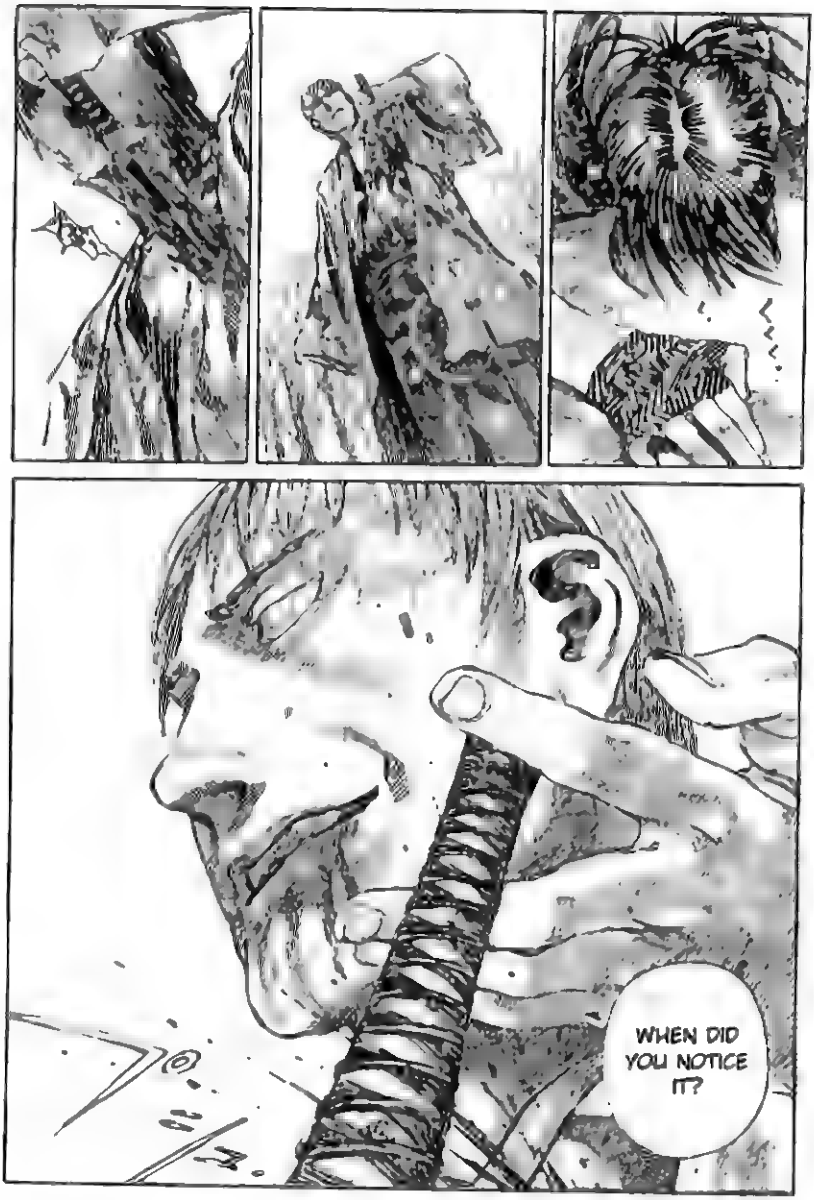
ふうううう



I KNEW IT ...
HA, HA ...!
DO YOU KNOW ...
SAY, SHIRA ...

ISN'T THAT SHIRA ?
WITHOUT A BRIDAN
INTO WHAT JABBED I MY SWORD? TO PUT UP WITH A STAB INTO THE LUNG
LOST YOUR PERCEPTION OF PAIN ...?
YOU!

GWAH!
WHAT?!


WHEN DID YOU NOTICE IT?

HA, HA, HA
IT JUST SEEMED ODD TO ME
OUT OF 822 PRISONERS WHO BURANOL EXPERIMENTED ON
SO SURVIVED WHOSE BLOOD MATCHED MINE
OUT OF THOSE SO MUST OF THEM WENT NUTS BECAUSE OF THE PAIN
THE EXPERIMENT WAS A SUCCESS FOR ONLY 5 OF THEM
THAT'D BE QUITE AN ODD COINCIDENCE
AND YOU OF ALL PEOPLE
YOU SHOULD BE ONE OF THEM?!
BUT
FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T FEEL ANY PAIN IT'D BE A PIECE OF CAKE IF THE BLOOD MATCHES. HUH?

I SEE! IT WAS LIKE THAT.
HE LOST MORE THAN AN EYE BACK THEN.
YOU ARE ...
... A REALLY UNLUCKY FELLOW.
SHIRA ...
I CUT OFF YOUR RIGHT ARM AND MAGATSU YOUR LEFT ONE.
YOU FELL OFF A WATERFALL, LOST AN EYE AND LASTLY YOU WERE USED FOR MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS.
IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE ...

... HOW YOU MADE ALL THESE TORMENTS YOUR OWN.
BUT THE REAL KICKER IS ...
THANKS TO YOUR BRAIN DAMAGE YOU COULD SUSTAIN BURANDO'S EXPERIMENTS.
YOU'RE INDEED A MAN ...
... WHO WALKS THROUGH HELL UN-TOUCHED.
ONE ARM YOU CARVED INTO A WEAPON, FOR THE OTHER YOU FOUND A REPLACEMENT.
AS I SEE IT ...
... IT APPLIES TO YOU EVEN MORE.
YOU KNOW, MANJI ...

SO PLEASE, A LITTLE BIT MORE SELF-CRITICISM!
ACTUALLY YOUR SHABBY WORK IS THE FAULT OF THIS SHITTY MISERY, ISN'T IT?
BESIDES THAT, I DIDN'T CHOOSE TO SURVIVE ALL THIS SHIT LIKE A FUCKING COCKROACH.
BUT TODAY...
...I'M ALLOWED TO EXPECT ONLY EXTRAORDINARY GOOD WORK OF YOU, MANJI.
HE HE
WELL, BECAUSE AFTER ALL...

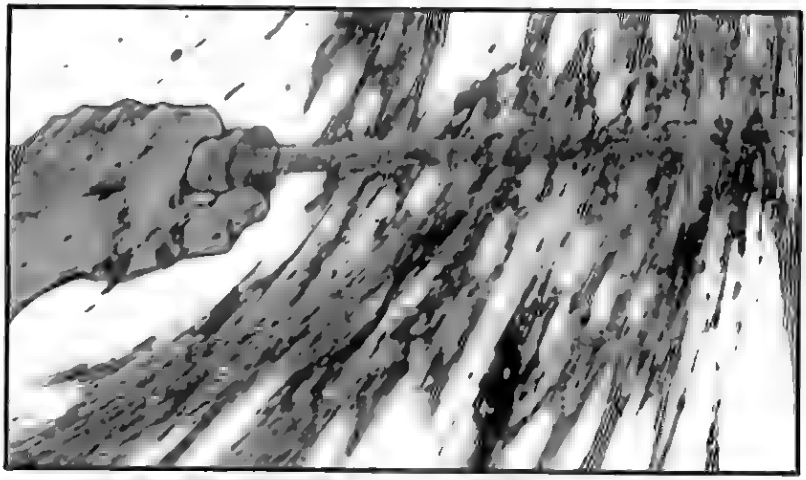
...JUST LIKE HIS, FOR MY OWN PLEASURE!
... I USED AND KILLED YOUR GIRL ...
HUH?!

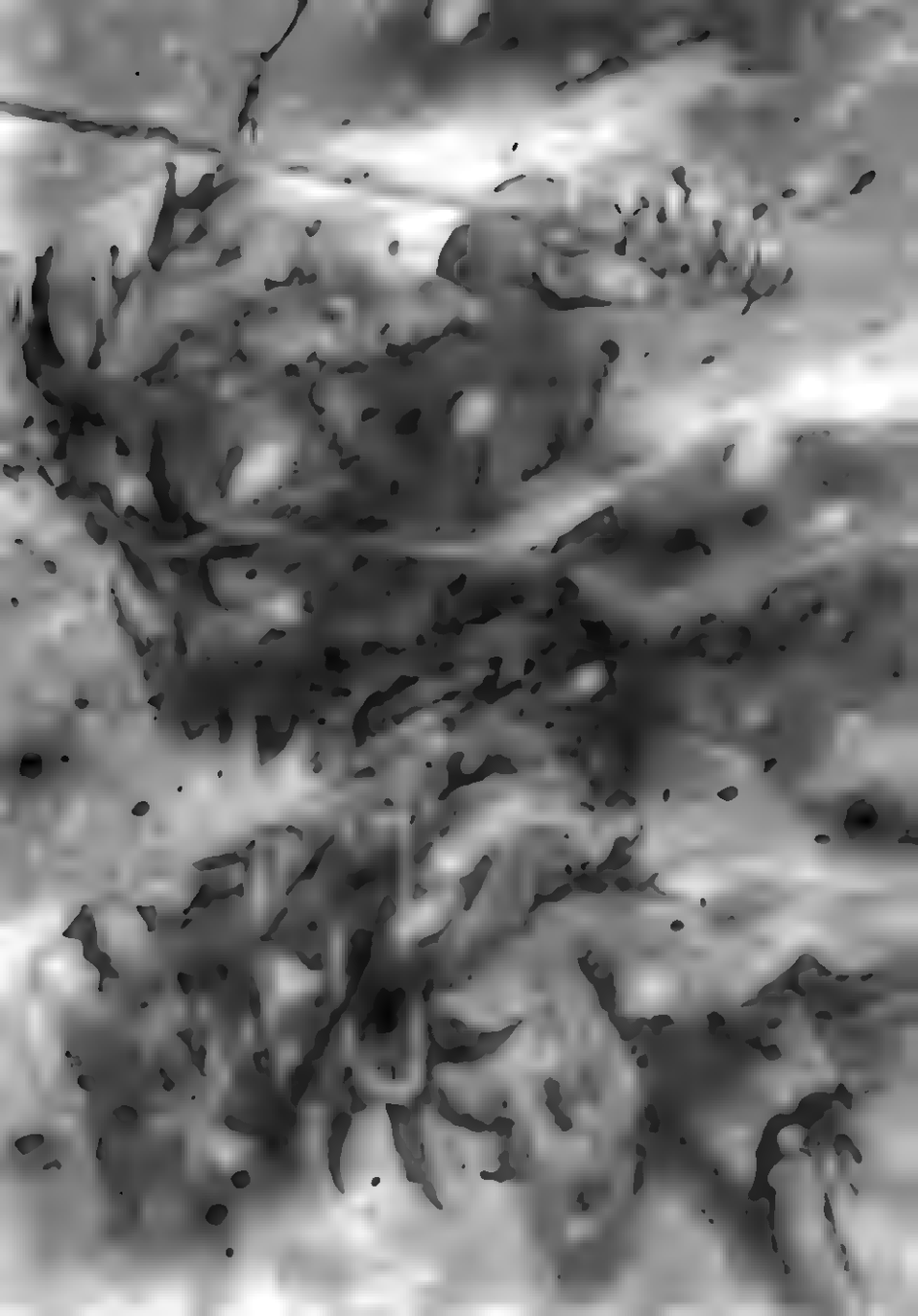
UH, EVERYTHING'S SOAKING WET. WHAT A BUMMER ...
BUT WE NEED TO WALK A BIT ...
I KNOW ONE! WE WAITED THERE FOR THEM.
LET'S GO BEFORE IT GETS DANGEROUS.
A COTTAGE?
... OTHERWISE IT LOOKS BAD FOR US.
WE NEED A COTTAGE TO WARM UP ...

WE NEED WATER! TAKE SOME FROM THE LAKE!
SHOOK AL BAD RE-CAUSE IT TASTES TOO CHALK TO DRINK

HER BREATH IS REGULAR, SO SHE'S OUT OF DANGER.
WILL SHE MAKE IT ?
BUT SHE MAY LOSE SOME TOES

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND THESE TWO
RENZO
WITH THAT, MOST OF THE THINGS SHOULD BE BALANCED NOW
BUT YOU LET THE GIRL ALMOST DIE
GOOD BOY.
THINK OF HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER.
WHEN RIN WAKES UP
WELL ?





PAINT
I CAN'T COME BE TWEEN THEM

もはやただの人間には
A NORMAL HUMAN, CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THAT.
HM?
OH! IT'S NOT MINE BUT...
SHEER MADNESS!
YES ...

MEANING
ACTUALLY IT WAS MANJI'S IMMORTALITY THAT WAS TRANSFERD INTO SHIRA'S BODY BUT DONT ASK ME HOW
TELL ME
SO IS MANJI ALSO ?
YES
HE'S LIKE SHIRA
AT THIS POINT
NEITHER IS GIVING ANYTHING AWAY BUT SHIRA'S LACK OF PAIN PERCEPTION IS HIS ADVANTAGE
THAT MIGHT BE A NEW EXPERIENCE TO MANJI
WHY AN ADVANTAGE?
IT'S IRRELEVANT IF IT HURT'S OR NOT
WHEN THE WOUNDS ARE HEALDIG

IF HE GETS HURT, THE BODY WILL FLINCH.
THAT'S A INSTINCTIVE AND FULLY AUTOMATIC REACTION.
A HUMAN IS JUST AN ANIMAL AND NOT IMMUNE TO THIS.
EVERY ANIMAL FLINCHES FROM PAIN.
BECAUSE TO FEEL PAIN MEANS TO FEEL THE CLOSENESS OF DEATH.
.....
FOR AN ORDINARY MORTAL, WHICH CAN DIE OF A SINGLE SWORD THRUST, IT MIGHT BE IRRELEVANT
AS-SUMING THAT MANJI ...
... WOULD STILL LIVE WITH THIS IMMORTALITY FOR FURTHER DECADES.
EVEN A HUMAN WHO DOESN'T DIE OF SUCH A INJURY DOES THIS.
... AND TRULY FIGHT LIKE AN IMMORTAL FIGHTER.
... KILL DOWN HIS FEELINGS ...
THEN HE COULD PROPABLY OVERPOWER THESE ANIMAL INSTINCTS ...

JUST LIKE ...
... THIS MONSTER, WHICH WON'T BE STOPPED BY A HIT FOR A BLINK OF AN EYE ...
LOOK AT THIS ...! THE SHORT DELAYS TAKE THEIR TOLL ON MANJI...
WHERE HE HITS TWICE ...
... SHIRA HITS THREE TIMES.
IF THEY'RE DETERMINED TO CHOKE THE LIFE OUT OF THE OTHER, IT WOULD BE MANJI WHO'D LOSE HIS HEAD.

我々
UNG!!
……
KUT
KUT
KUT
KUT

MAN, WHAT A TOUGH FIGHT! BUT WHAT'S THE POINT ...?
SHIRA, THAT SICKO, DELAYS THE DEATH BLOW FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

.... WHAT'S BEHIND ALL THIS?
... IT'S MORE LIKE A WAR OF ATTRITION

BUT WHY DOES MANJI PLAY ALONG?
THIS ISN'T A NORMAL FIGHT.

MANJI, WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?
CHAPTER 165 END

HUF!!
HUF!!
HUF!!
HUF!!

CHAPTER 166
THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 6

❖第百六十六幕❖
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〈其の六〉

GRAAAH!!!
UNG!

SHIT!

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HOW CAN YOU ASK?!
MAN, STAY CALM!!
YOU'RE FROM ITTO-RYU, RIGHT?!
IF HE ASKS ME WHERE I KNOW THIS FROM, THEN...!
WHAT OBLIGATIONS DO YOU HAVE TO HELP MANJI? ... IN YOUR CONDITION!
OBLIGATIONS? NONE AT ALL ...
IT'S NOT ABOUT HELPING MANJI ...
BUT THIS BASTARD ...
THAT MURDEROUS MONSTER!
I HAVE TO KILL SHIRA AT ALL COSTS!!

DAMN!
MY FINGERS ARE FROZEN STIFF AND I CAN'T FEEL MY TOES EITHER.
SHIT!
BESIDES THAT ...
... I LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
FUCKING SHIT!
SHIT!
SHIT!

Y..
YOU?!
OH?!
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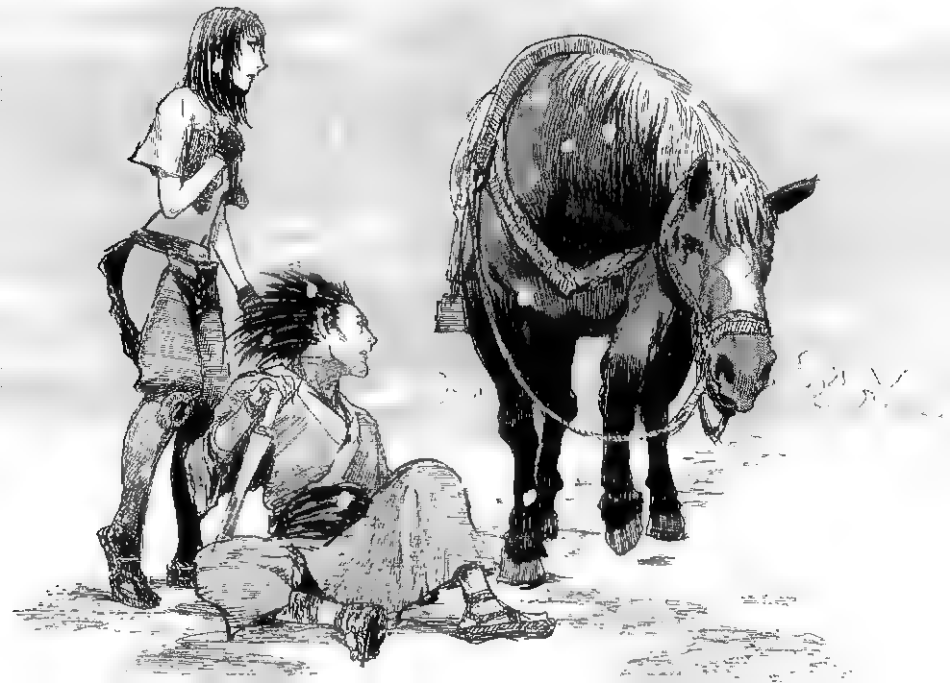
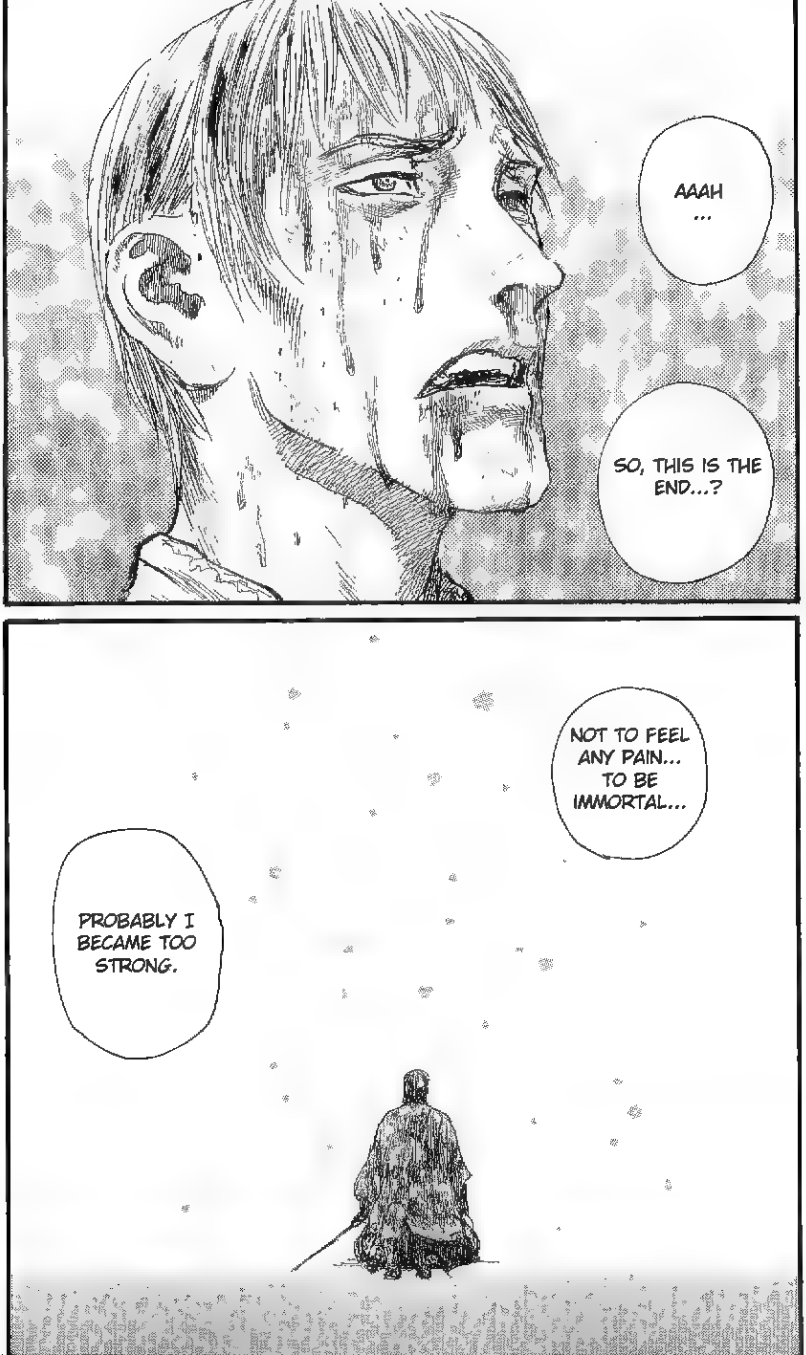
후..



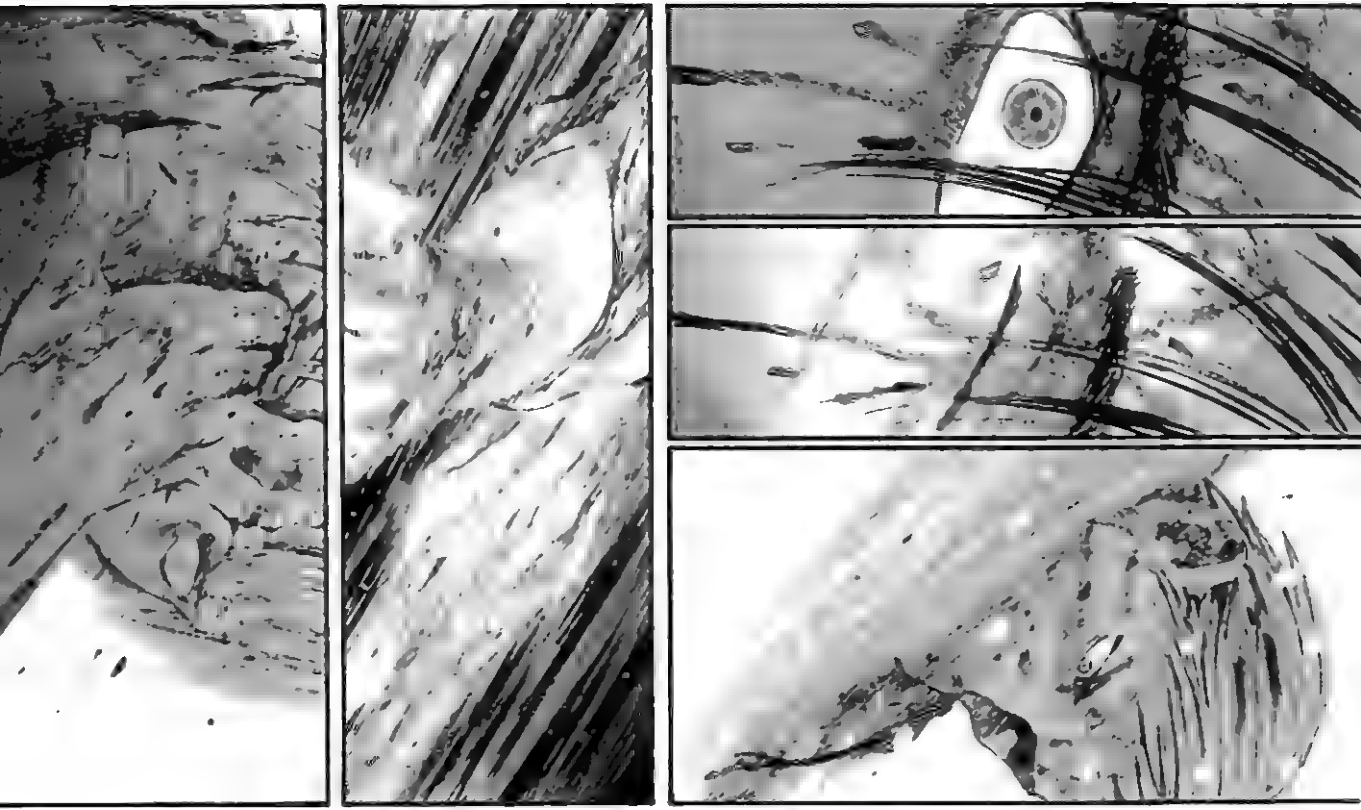
MANJI!
YOU CAN'T EVEN HOLD ...
... A SWORD ANYMORE.

BORROW A CLOTH FROM THAT GIRL AND WRAP IT AROUND YOUR HANDS.
ALREADY STIFF WITH COLD, HUH ...?
YES... THAT BECAME CLEAR TO ME IN THE LAKE
DID YOU KNOW, MANJI?
IF THE BODY GETS COLD, THEN EVEN YOU AND I CAN DIE
WELL ...
SHIRA ...
I KNOW THAT I HAVE TO KILL YOU
... MUST NOT STAY ALIVE.
A GUY LIKE YOU ...
... SO IT'S TRUE WHAT THE DOCTOR WROTE IN HIS LETTER

AND NOW... I WANT TO HAVE MY PEACE.
BUT THE BATTLE WAS DECIDED TOO SOON.
HM, I SEE ...
.....
... LET'S BRING IT TO AN END.
SO THEN ...


AAAH ...
SO, THIS IS THE END...?
NOT TO FEEL ANY PAIN... TO BE IMMORTAL...
PROBABLY I BECAME TOO STRONG.

PRO-
BABLY



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KCH!
ポリ
YOU ...
FUCK-ING ...
ASS-HOLE !!

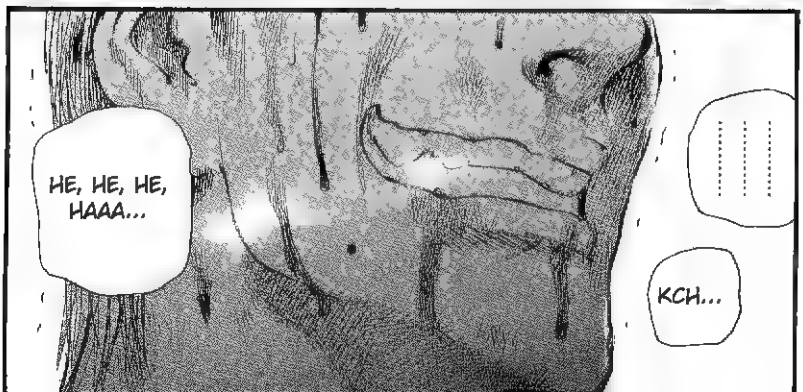
SHIT!
WHY DOESN'T IT HEAL?!
FUCK!
HE, HE ...
HEY, SHIRA ...

SINCE YOU CAN'T FEEL ANY PAIN, YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IT.
BUT YOUR RECENT WOUNDS ARE HEALING SLOWER NOW.
IDIOT!
HE, HE, HE ...
... WOULD MAKE YOU IMMORTAL FOREVER?!
DID YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT A SINGLE LITTLE WORM IN YOUR BODY ...

THIS WAY IT BRINGS OUT ITS SPECIAL QUALITY: IT TEARS BIG WOUNDS!
I DOESN'T FIT IN ANY SHEATH
YOU HAVE TO RAM IT INTO THE ENEMY'S FLESH AND PULL IT OUT AGAIN.
THIS SWORD ...
... IS A NASTY THING.
... ARE COMPLETELY BUSY WORKING TO CLOSE ALL THOSE WOUNDS, HE HE HE ...
THE KESSENCHU IN YOUR BODY ...
... TILL THEY GET TO YOUR EYE?
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE ...
.....

"OF COURSE THEIR ABILITY OF REGENERATION WON'T BE OF SAME QUALITY AS MANJI'S, WHO HAS GOT MORE BASES, BUT AS LONG AS THE PERSON DOESN'T LOSE THE TRANSPLANTED BODY PART, HE MIGHT BE CALLED IMMORTAL."

"OF COURSE THEIR ABILITY OF REGENERATION WON'T BE OF SAME QUALITY AS MANJI'S, WHO HAS GOT MORE BASES"



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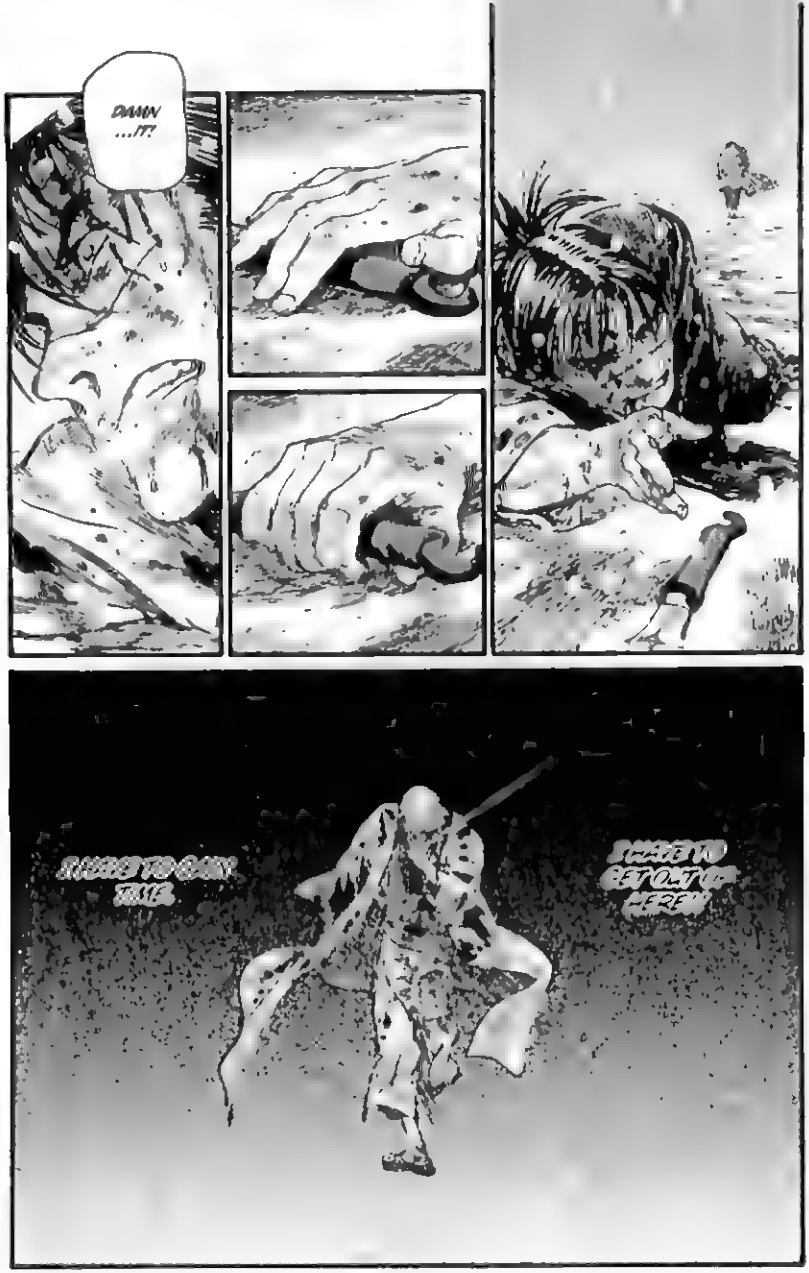
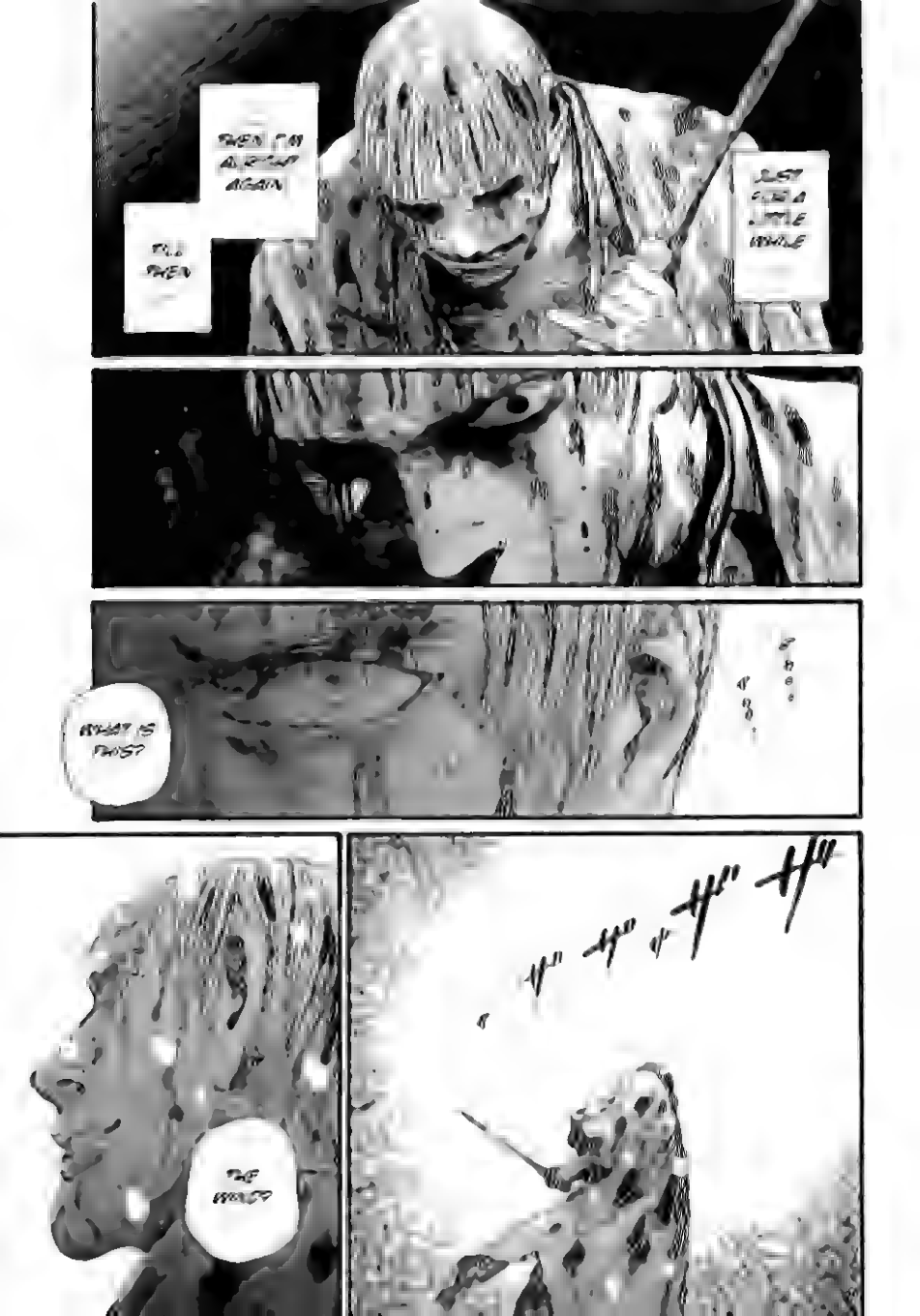
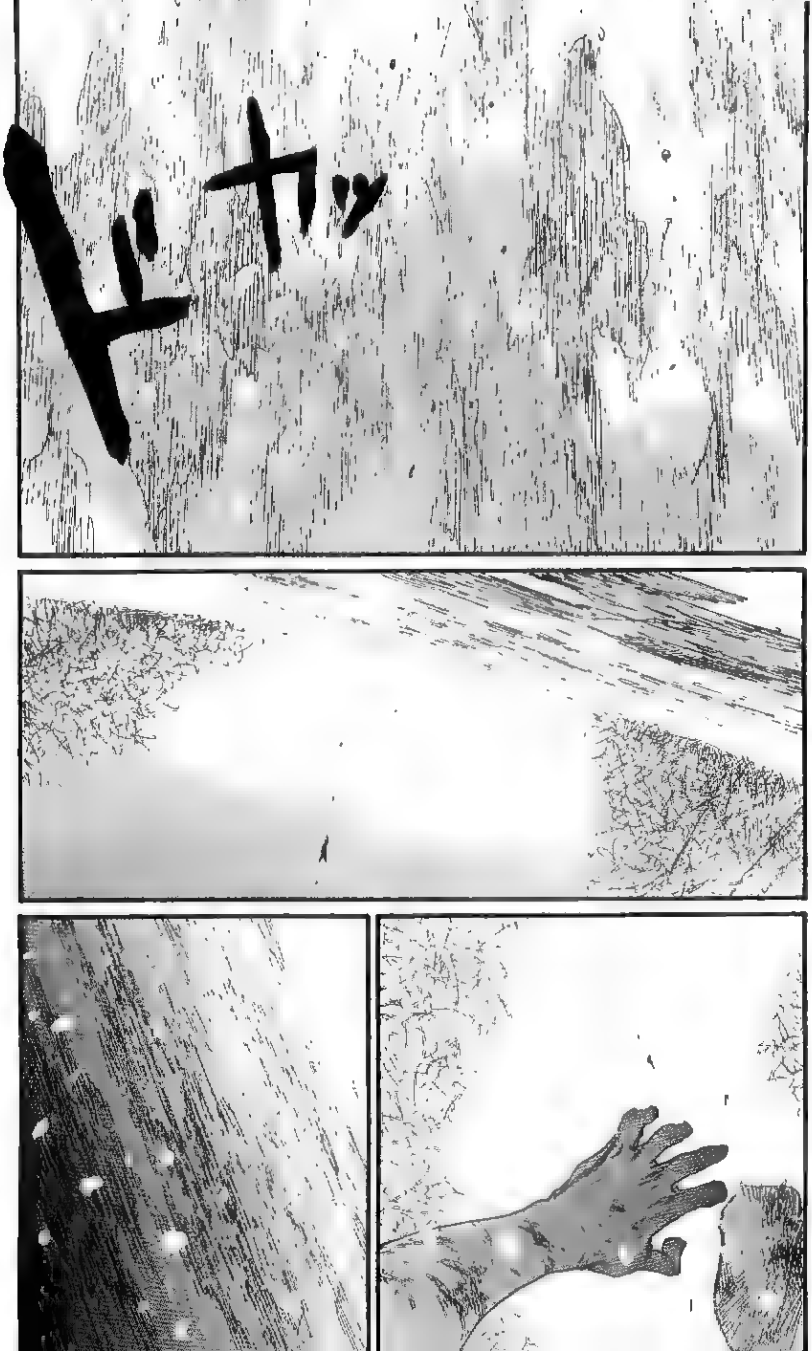
HE HIT BLINDLY ...!
FUCKING SHIT!
SHIT!

HOPEFULLY THOSE TWO ...
BUT TO LOSE MY IMMORTALITY TOO IS SIMPLY TOO MUCH!
THE EYE IS BAD ENOUGH ...
...DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING.
...A BRAT AND AN INJURED MAN FINISH ME ...!
YOU MUST BE JOKING.
I WON'T LET ...


DAMN ...IT!
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!


THEN I'M ALREADY AGAIN
I'LL THEN
JUST GIVE A LITTLE WHILE
Shoo
WHAT IS THIS?
THE HELL?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コッ ア..
コッ ア..

HAAA!
AH!

MANJI!
CHAPTER 166 END

COME ON! MANJU!

❖第百六十七幕❖

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CHAPTER 167

THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 7

TAKE THE SCYLLA, MAN!!!
HNNGAAAH!!

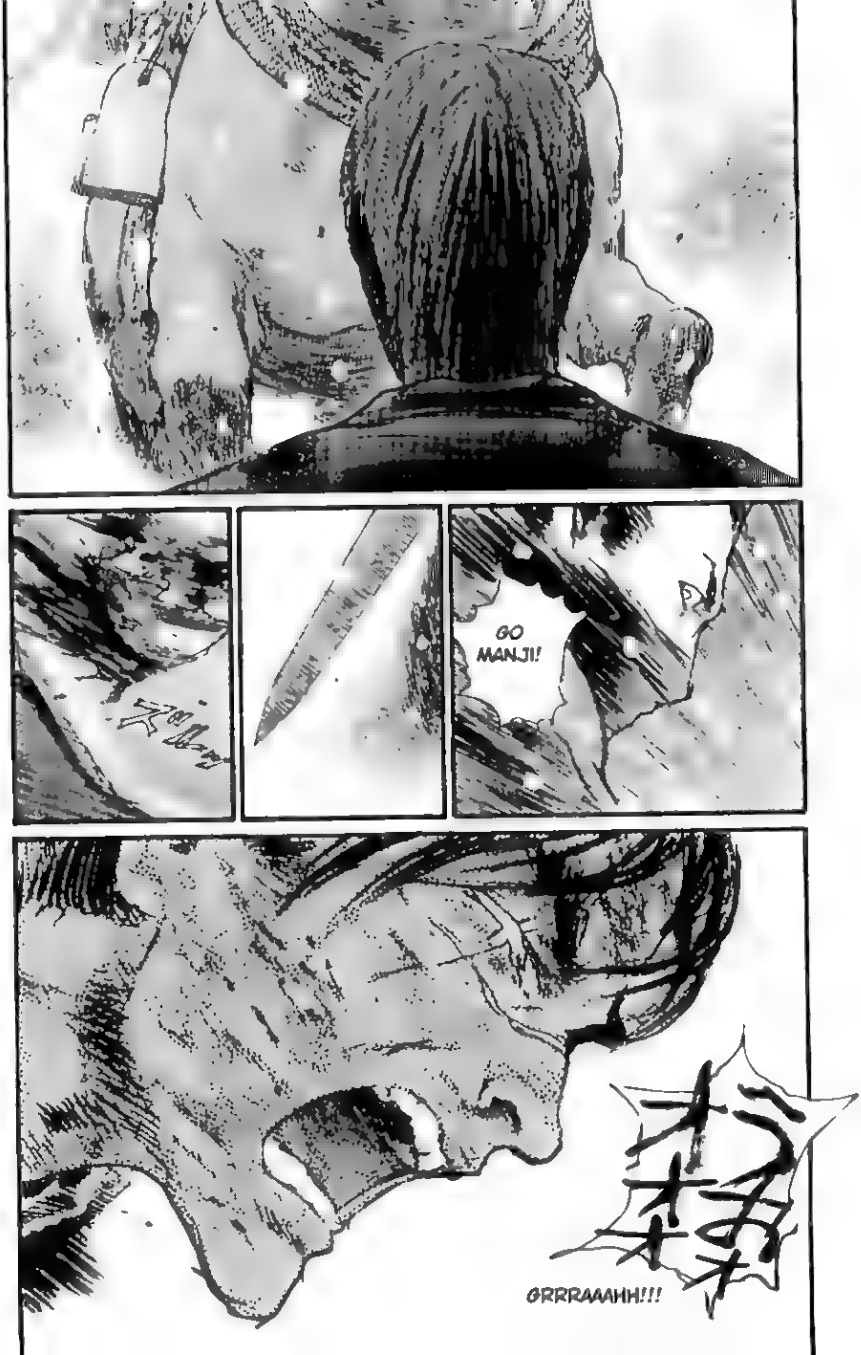
HUF!!
HUF!!
KCH!!
I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T HOLD A SWORD PROPERLY.
I'M SORRY, BUT..
HERE, TAKE THIS, MANJI!
COME ONE, PUT FORTH YOUR HAND!

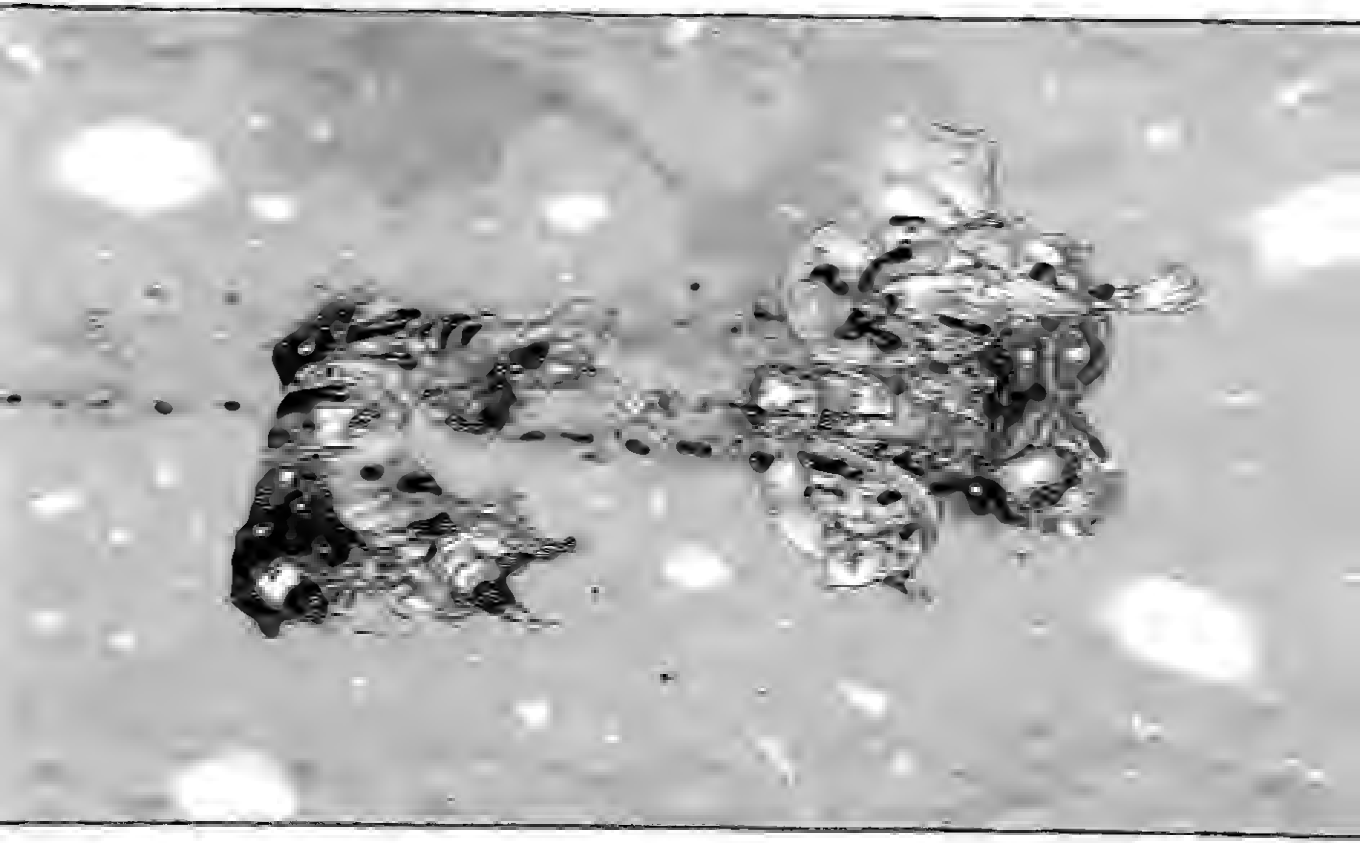
THANK YOU ...
YOU'RE THE REASON FOR SHIRA'S PHYSICAL STATE ...
YOU WERE DRIVING HIM THAT FAR INTO A CORNER.
I'M ONLY A BYSTANDER.
YES, LIKE THIS ...
THAT WAY YOU CAN STILL STAB OUT, IN SPITE OF YOUR STIFF FINGERS.
YOU PLAY THE MAIN ROLE ... UNTIL THE END!

HOW NOBLE LEAVING ALL THE DIRTY WORK TO ME
HOW'
UNGH'

ヤバ！
ヤバ！

ahh!


GO MANJI!
GRRRAAAHH!!!



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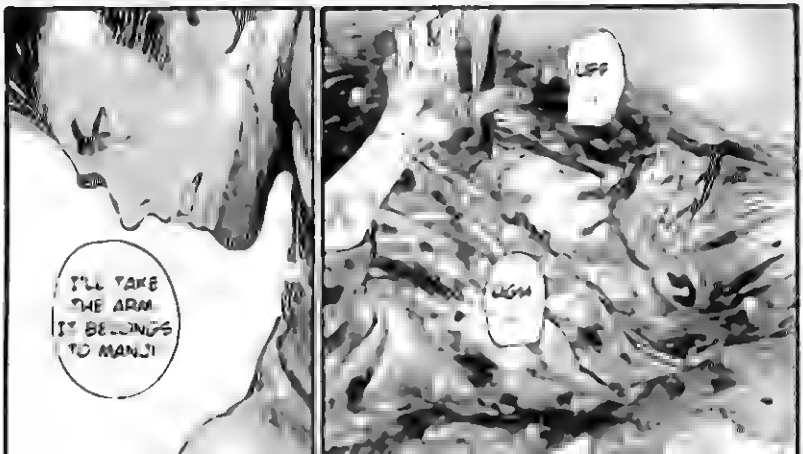
AAH
...
AH
..
ANGHH
...
HNGH
...

AAH!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
SHIRA! STAY LAYING!

ITTO-RYU AND THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER
YOU COULD ALSO ACCUSE
BUT OF THIS
IN YOUR LIFE YOU'VE TAKEN SO MANY THINGS FROM SO MANY PEOPLE

SOMEHOW YOU RESEMBLE THE BOSS
IF YOU DON'T GET THIS YOU'LL FARE BADLY.
SHIRA. IN THESE TIMES, GUYS LIKE US HAVE TO QUIT THE SCENE


I'LL TAKE THE ARM. IT BELONGS TO MANJI
LEFT
ARM

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE?
WHERE'S RENZO?

TANPO PO...?

I'M WONDERING WHERE HE IS?

HE WENT OUTSIDE TO PEE.

CHAPTER 167 END

❖第百六十八幕❖

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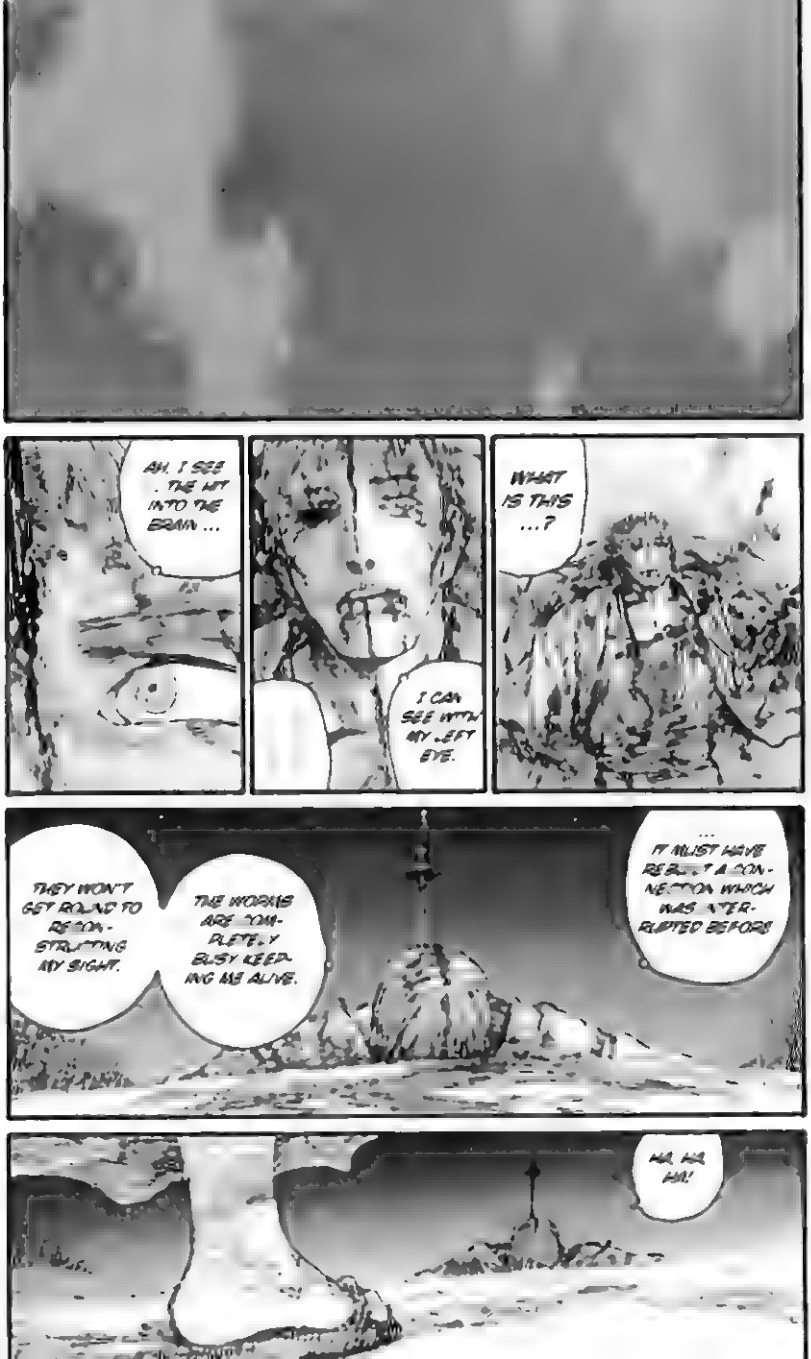
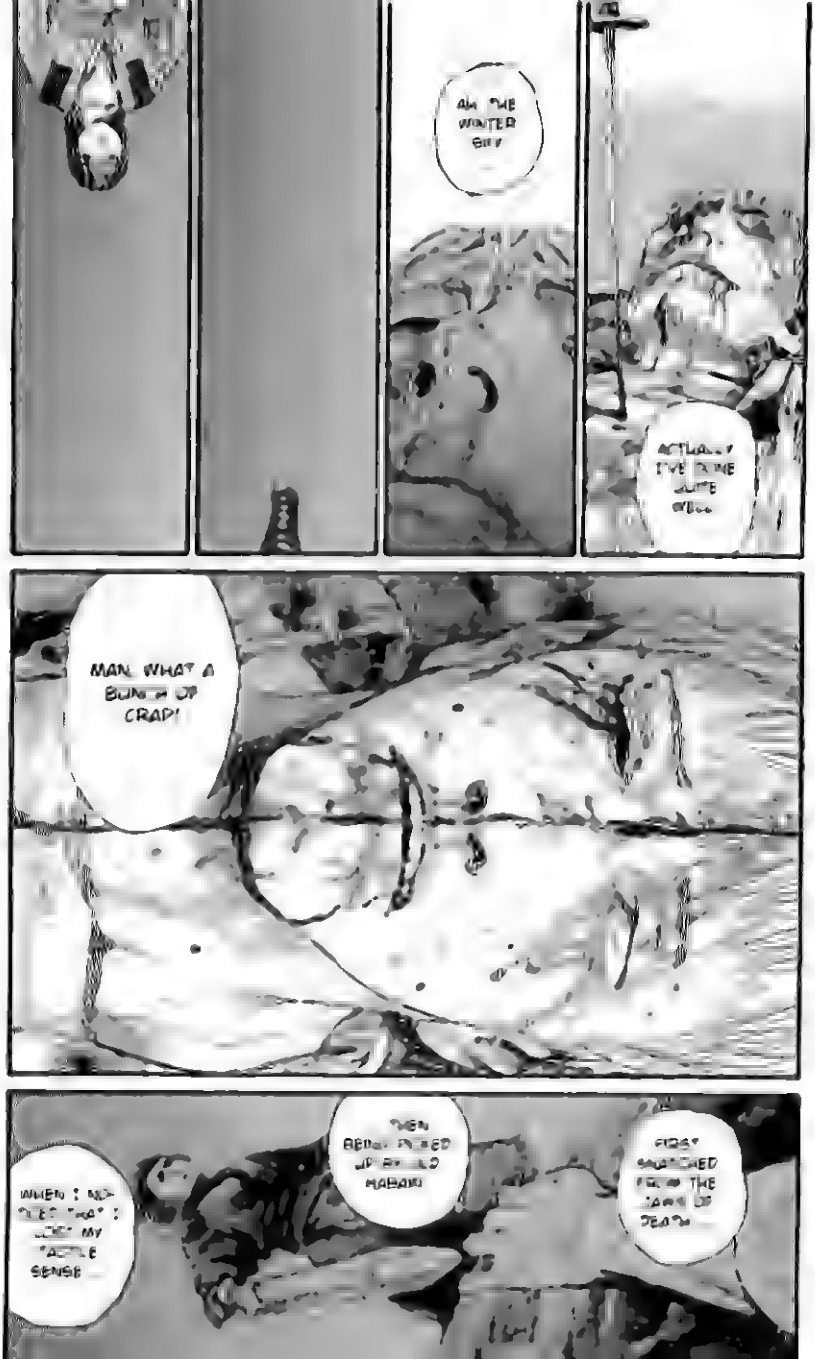
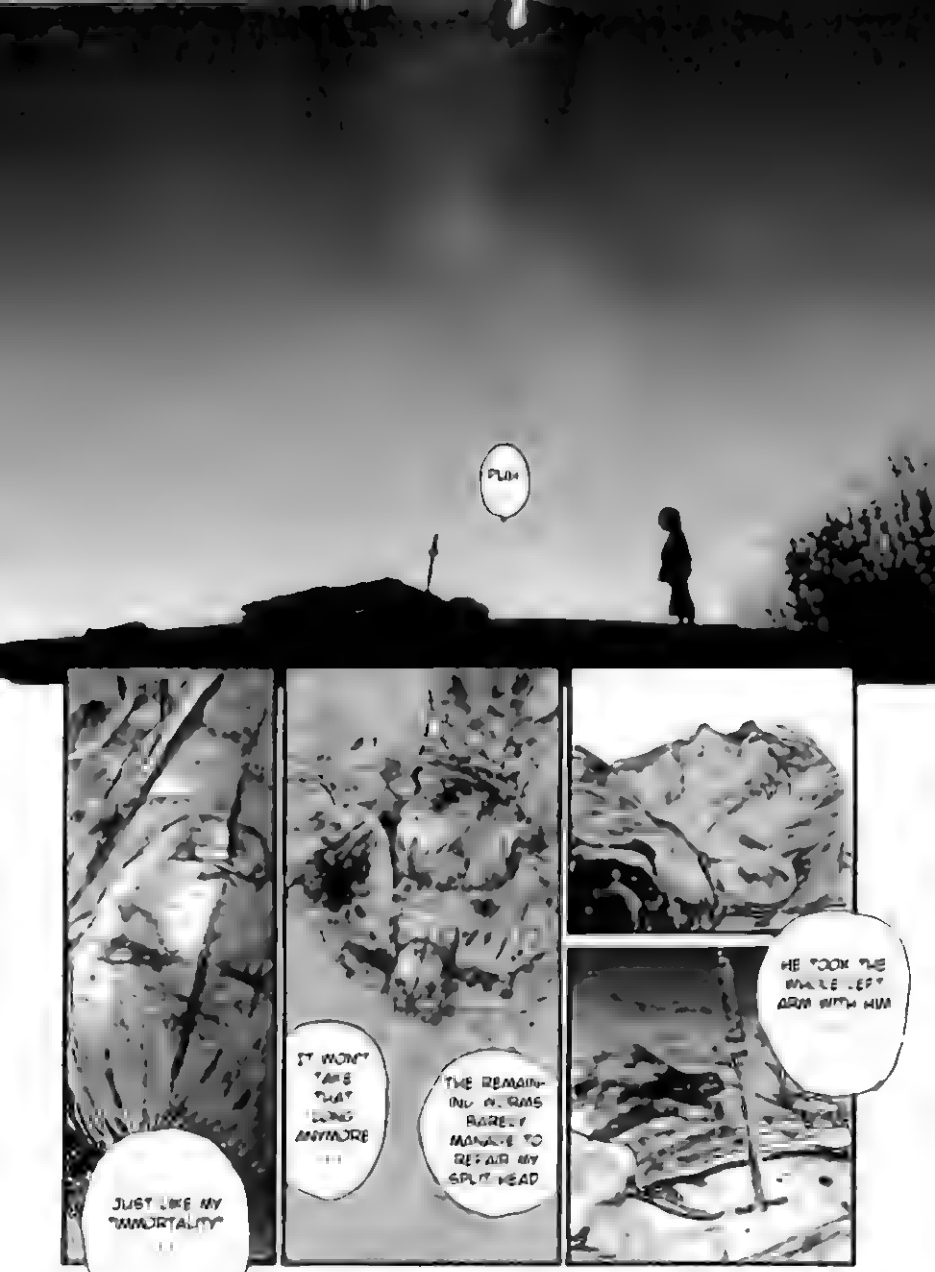
CHAPTER 168
NOURISHMENT
PART 2


AH, I SEE . THE HIT INTO THE BRAIN ...
I CAN SEE WITH MY LEFT EYE.
WHAT IS THIS ...?
THEY WON'T GET ROUND TO RECONSTRUCTING MY SIGHT.
THE WORMS ARE COMPLETELY BUSY KEEPING ME ALIVE.
... IT MUST HAVE RESTORED A CONNECTION WHICH WAS INTERRUPTED BEFORE
HA, HA, HA!

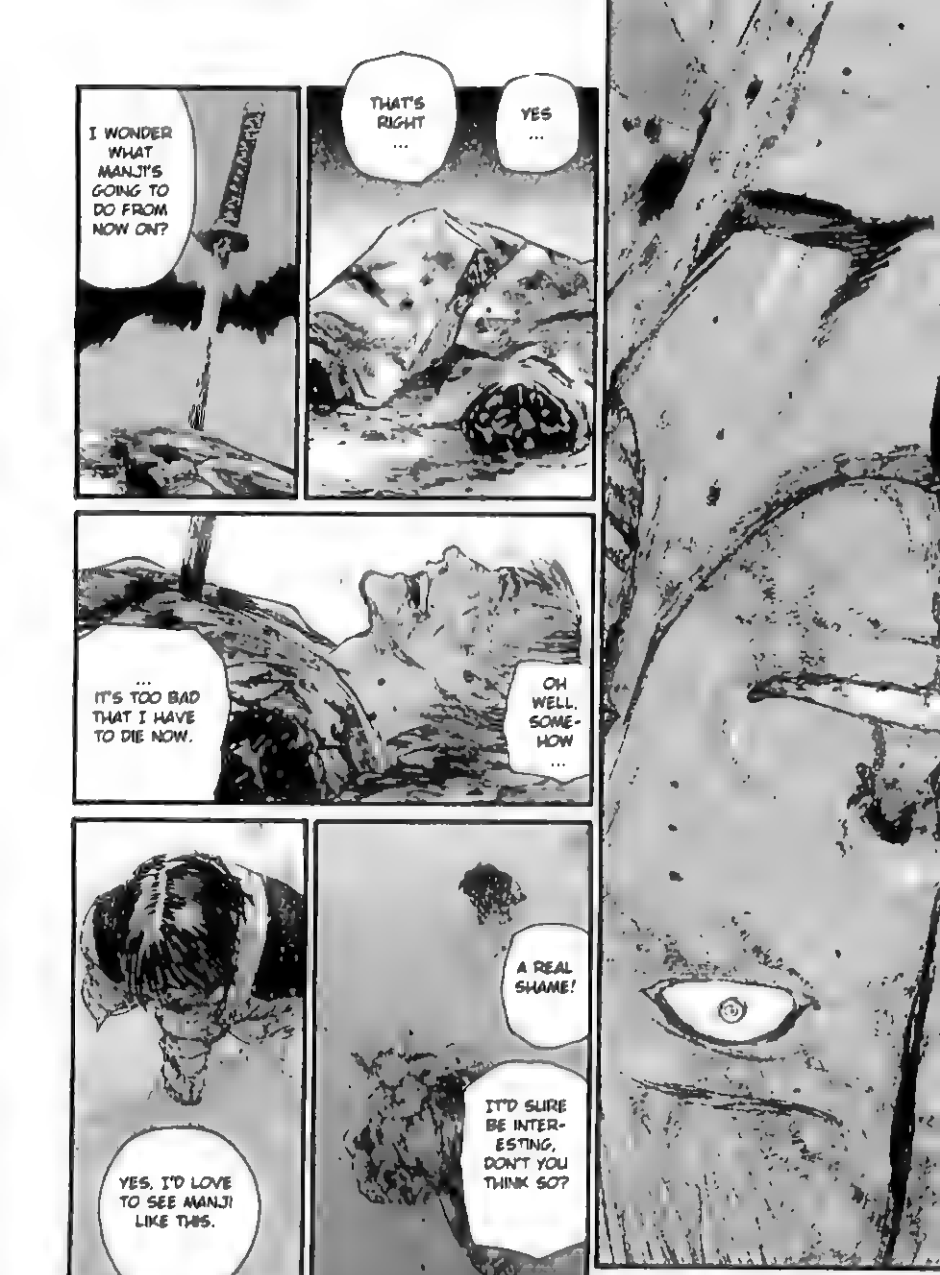
I'M SORRY ...
I COULDN'T KILL THE MURDERER OF YOUR FATHER.
HE....
I'VE LOST ...
IN SPITE OF THE IMMOR-TALITY ...
IN SPITE OF NOT BEING ABLE TO FEEL ANY PAIN ...
BUT ...
... THERE WERE THREE AGAINST ONE.
BESIDES, THEY ALSO HAD ...
... A HORSE.


AH THE WATER BUT
ACTUALLY I'VE DONE QUITE WELL...
MAN WHAT A BUNCH OF CRAP!
WHEN I WAS "DEAD" I LOST MY "ANIMAL SENSE"...
THEN BEING POWERED UP BY OLD MABAKI
FIRST SNATCHED FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH...

A REPLACEMENT FOR MY ARM.
BUT SOON I REALIZED THAT IN TRUTH I'VE OBTAINED A NEW WEAPON.
... I THOUGHT THAT I'VE LOST SOMETHING ESSENTIAL.
... WITHOUT PAIN IS THAT DAMN BORING.
NEVER THOUGHT THAT A FIGHT ...
... I STILL LOST.
BUT IN THE END ...
IT WAS A WASTE OF EFFORT ... WITH YOU AS WELL!
BWAH, HA, HA!
WELL, I CAN SAY IT NOW ...
WHETHER MAN OR WOMAN, IT WASN'T EVEN FUN ANYMORE TO COMMIT VIOLENCE ON ANYONE.
HE, HE ...


PLIM
JUST LIKE MY "IMMORTALITY"
IT WON'T "ARE THAT" BEING ANYMORE
THE REMAINING ARMS RARELY MANAGE TO REPAIR MY SPLIT HEAD
HE TOOK THE WHOLE LEFT ARM WITH HIM

ISN'T MANJI ALREADY SICK OF IT?
IT'S HELPFUL FOR NOW ...
... BUT AFTER A YEAR SURELY YOU ARE FED UP WITH IT.
NOW ...
... SINCE HE HASN'T GOT ANY-BODY TO PROTECT ANYMORE ...
THE BRAT IS DEAD!
BWAH, HA, HA!
OH, YES! THAT'S IT!
HE, HE ...


I WONDER WHAT MANJI'S GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON?
THAT'S RIGHT ...
YES ...
... IT'S TOO BAD THAT I HAVE TO DIE NOW.
OH WELL. SOME-HOW ...
YES, I'D LOVE TO SEE MANJI LIKE THIS.
A REAL SHAME!
IT'D SURE BE INTER-ESTING, DON'T YOU THINK SO?

OH!
SUCH A STRANGE GUY

HUH?!
DID ALL OF SUDDEN SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HEY HEY
WHAT'S UP WITH THEM?

HUH?! WAIT A SEC!
THAT WAY TO DIE WAS MOST PREVALENT IN THE SOC'S LETTER
LEAVE WEAPON! GET BACK!

WHAT IS THIS?! SUCH A GROSS FEELING...!

UAAAAH!

BWAH, HA, HA! IT'S DRAGGING LIKE SHIT!

RENZO!

STOP...

...YOUR REVENGE CAMPAIGN!

YOU CAN'T KILL MANJI!

WHOEVER YOU ALIGN WITH...

THAT'S NOT YOUR THING!

THAT WAY YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO THE DIRTY WORK!

BECAUSE YOUR FATHER WAS KILLED YOU CAN ONLY SEE YOURSELF AS A VICTIM...

YOU'RE A MAN!

YOU MUST NOT BECOME SUCH A BAD PERSON!

...OR LIVE LIKE A COWARD IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT.

DON'T LET THE EVIL POISON YOU!

ABSORB IT FULLY AWARE...

AND ONE MORE THING

NEVER LISTEN TO GUYS LIKE ME!

BWAH, HA, HA...!

...AND SO WE WERE JUST ON THE WAY TO REPORT THAT TO HABAKI.

THAT'S WHAT WE OBSERVED ...

THE LEADER OF ITTO-RYU IS NOT WITH THE OTHERS ON THE MITO WAY.

!?

AH, MITAKE-SAN!

YOU JUST COME AT THE RIGHT TIME!

WE'VE GOT AN URGENT MESSAGE ...

AH, IT'S YOU!

WHAT HAP-PENED?!

...IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THE REPORT.

AT THIS POINT ...

THE OTHERS ON THE MITO WAY WERE JUST FOR DISTRAC-TION!!

YESTERDAY NIGHT, FOUR ITTO-RYU FIGHTERS ATTACKED THE PALACE AND CAUSED A MASSACRE!!

I'M IN A BIG HUR-RY!

...BUT WE WERE TOO EX-HAUSTED, TO BE HONEST.

YEAH, THAT WHOLE RUNNING AROUND!

MITAKE TOLD US TO GET BACK TO THE PALACE AND WAIT FOR NEW ORDERS...

...A RIDER PASSED US, WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE KAGEHISA ANOTSU.

AS WE TURNED BACK AS COM-MANDED...

LET'S PRETEND WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY-THING...

HE'S TOO FAST

GOT THAT?!

WE DIDN'T COME BACK TO HELP YOU!

OH, THAT SURE WAS HARD FOR YOU!

YES, YES, I GOT IT.

HEY, WAIT A SEC!

I DON'T CARE!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF INJURED IDIOTS!

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE SAYING SUCH THINGS IN FRONT OF ME!

YOU GOT THAT...?!

WHETHER ITTO-RYU OR ANYTHING ELSE I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!

RIN...

YOU HORSE RUG!

YOU'RE LUCKY THAT YOU WERE IN THE WATER THE WHOLE TIME.

YOU WON'T FREEZE AS FAST AS IN THE ICE OR SNOW.

I CAN'T MOVE THEM YET BUT THE BLOOD IS CIRCULATING.

HOW ARE YOUR LEGS?

HMM...

HE CAME OUT OF THE LAKE WITH WET CLOTHES AND HAD TO ENDURE WIND AND SNOW AFTERWARDS.

MANJI DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH LUCK.

AH...

YES, OK.

I THOUGHT I'D WARM HIM UP A LITTLE.

I'M SOR-RY...!

ARGH! HEY!

SHE APPROVED IT, SWEET-HEART!

RE...

!?

'REN-ZO?!

INTO THE PALACE ...?!

WHAT ...?!

...AND TWO CAPTAINS HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED.

MORE THAN HUNDRED GUARDS...

YESTERDAY NIGHT, KAGEHISA ANOTSU AND THREE MORE ITTO-RYU WARRIORS INTRUDED INTO THE PALACE THROUGH THE MAIN GATE.

YES!

SO THAT'S WHY ITTO-RYU PROCLAIMED THAT THEY WOULD HEAD TO HITACHI.

SEE...

I

HNN GHWA AAAAH !!!!!

KAGE-HISA ANOTSU...

FA... HABAKI-SAMA?!

UH, UH, HUUU...

...NOT TO BE THE CAPTAIN OF THE PALACE GUARDS ANYMORE...!

NEVER HAVE I REGRETTED SO TERRIBLY...

YOU WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THESE TEARS!

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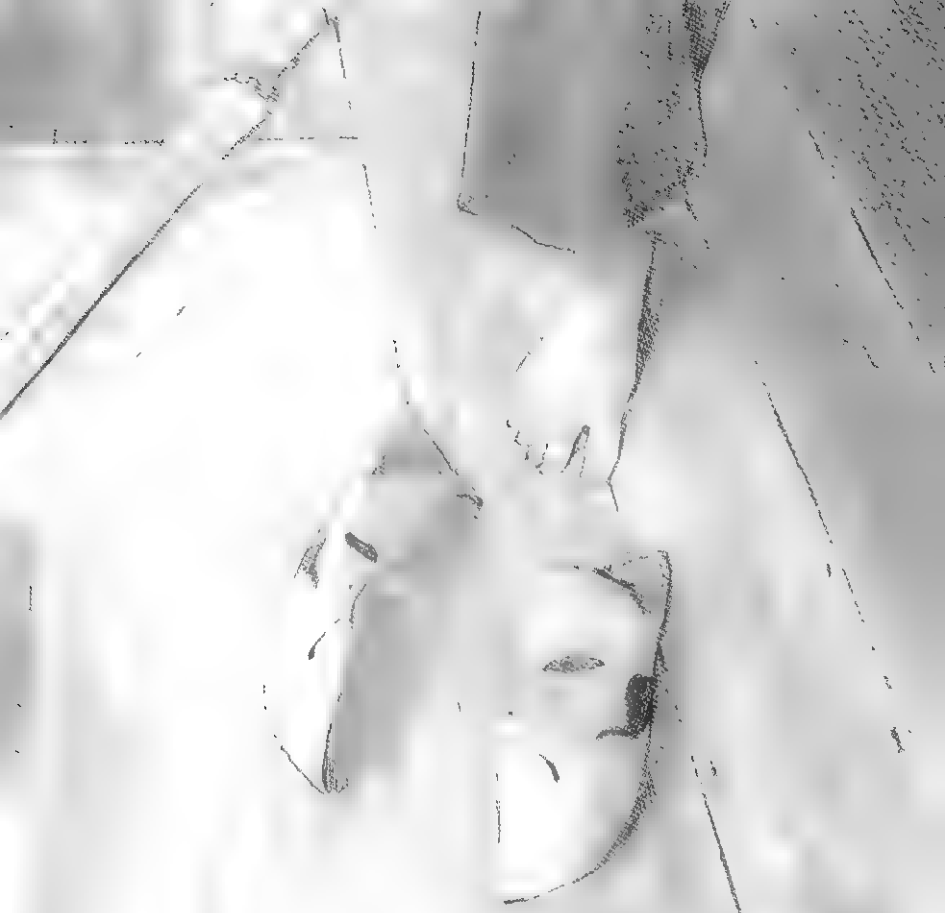

CHAPTER 169

LOWERED WINGS

❖第百六十九幕❖

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RENZO
...

THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
LAY DOWN THE SWORD, BOY!
I STILL HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THIS MAN!
... THAT STABS OR SWORD THRUSTS WON'T KILL HIM.
I KNOW ...

SHIRA IS DEAD.
MY FATHER IS DEAD.
ONLY HE ...
THAT'S ...
... SO UNFAIR ...!
RIN ...
YOU FOOLED ME BACK THEN.
I BELIEVED HE WAS DEAD!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
WHEN I NEXT MET MANJI...
IT WAS HIS RIGHT ARM.
WE ONLY BURIED HIS ARM.

I WAS ABLE TO SNATCH IT AND RUN OFF.
... HE JUST LOST HIS LEFT ARM.
THAT'S EX-ACTLY ...
WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
SO IN TRUTH ...
... HE ALREADY LOST BOTH ARMS.
... AND LET HIM LIVE ON LIKE THAT.
I'LL HACK OFF BOTH ARMS ...
THAT'S HOW IT'D BE FOR A NORMAL HUMAN, RIGHT?

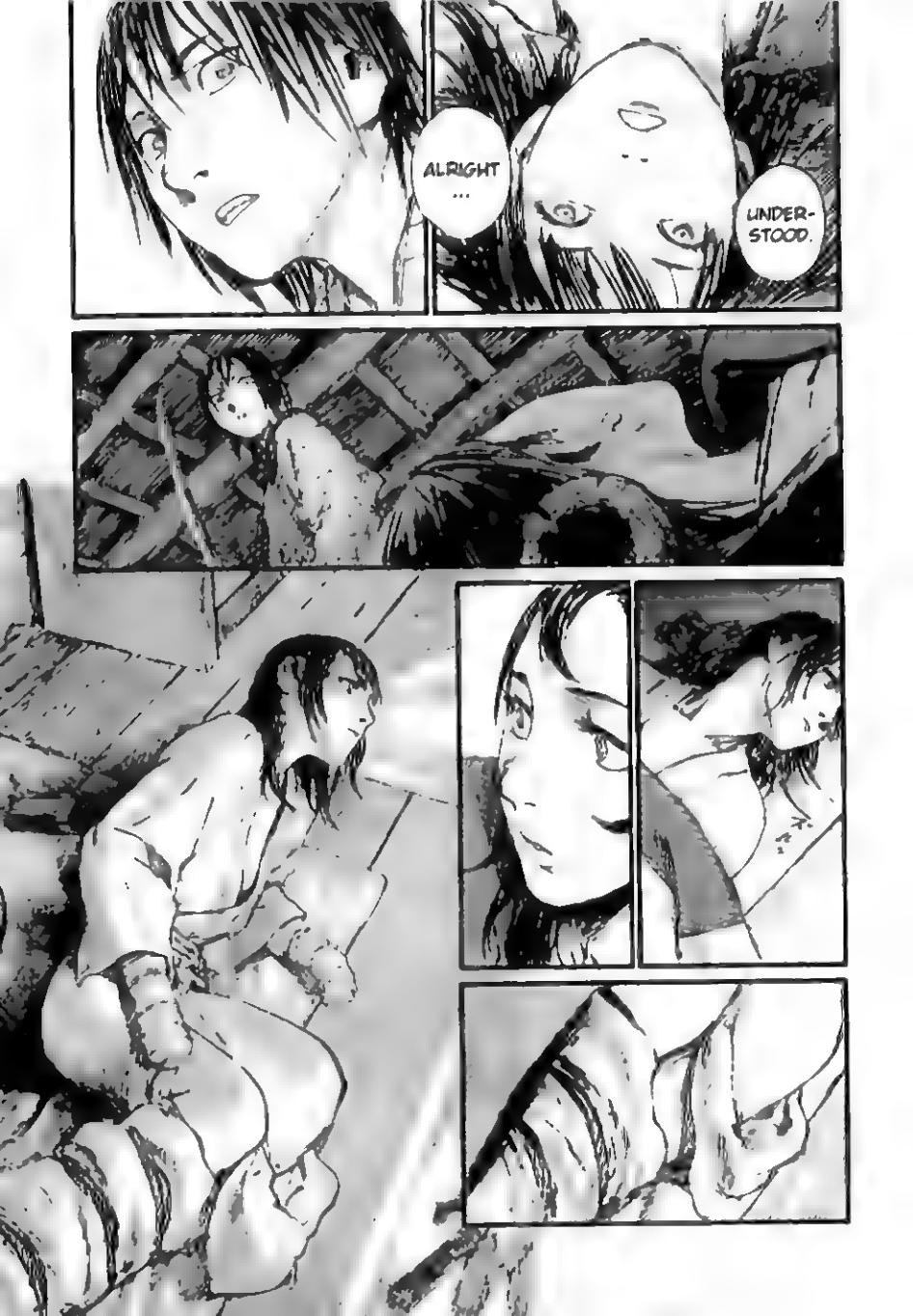
ARMS AND LEGS ...
... WHICH YOU CAN SIMPLY ATTACH. THAT'S SICK!
NO, I WON'T MOVE.
I DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT MANJI'S BODY ...
OUT OF MY WAY!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND-STORY, BUT ...
... WITH YOUR THIN ARMS ...
... YOU WON'T EVEN MANAGE THAT.
... BUT I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF HE LOSES BOTH ARMS IN HIS CURRENT CONDITION.
WITH A FRESH SHARPENED SWORD YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD A CHANCE, BUT WITH THAT BLUNT THING ...
IT'S USELESS TO CARVE AROUND MANJI PIECE BY PIECE.
AND I DOUBT THAT ANYONE IS GOING TO HELP YOU.
WHY ...
THAT'S IT ...

... COMING TO THAT GUY'S DEFENCE?!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS KEEP ...
SHIRA ...
... IS DEAD
HE DIED ALL ALONE.
MANGLED BY WILD DOGS...
AN UNBELIEVABLY HORRIBLE DEATH ...
PROBABLY IT HAD TO END LIKE THIS.
A MAN LIKE HIM DOESN'T DIE A NORMAL DEATH.
BUT WHAT ...

...What about this guy?!
Why...
How many people does he have on his conscience?! He's a criminal as well!
...do you all care for him so much?!
He's the same kind of scum!
...LOVE SHIRA.
IT'S NOT LIKE I...
WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME...
I OFTEN IMAGINED HOW I'D KILL HIM, OR MYSELF

...HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE FOR HIM...
...ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR HIM...
BUT WHEN I SEE HOW OTHERS...
...JUST WAY TOO MUCH FOR ME.
THE THOUGHT IS SOME-HOW...
SHIRA WAS ALL ALONE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
HIS ARMS AREN'T THAT MUCH TO ASK FOR! HE'S A MURDERER!
OUT OF MY WAY!


ALRIGHT ...
UNDER-STOOD.

RENZO...
...HAVE KILLED YOUR FATHER.
I...

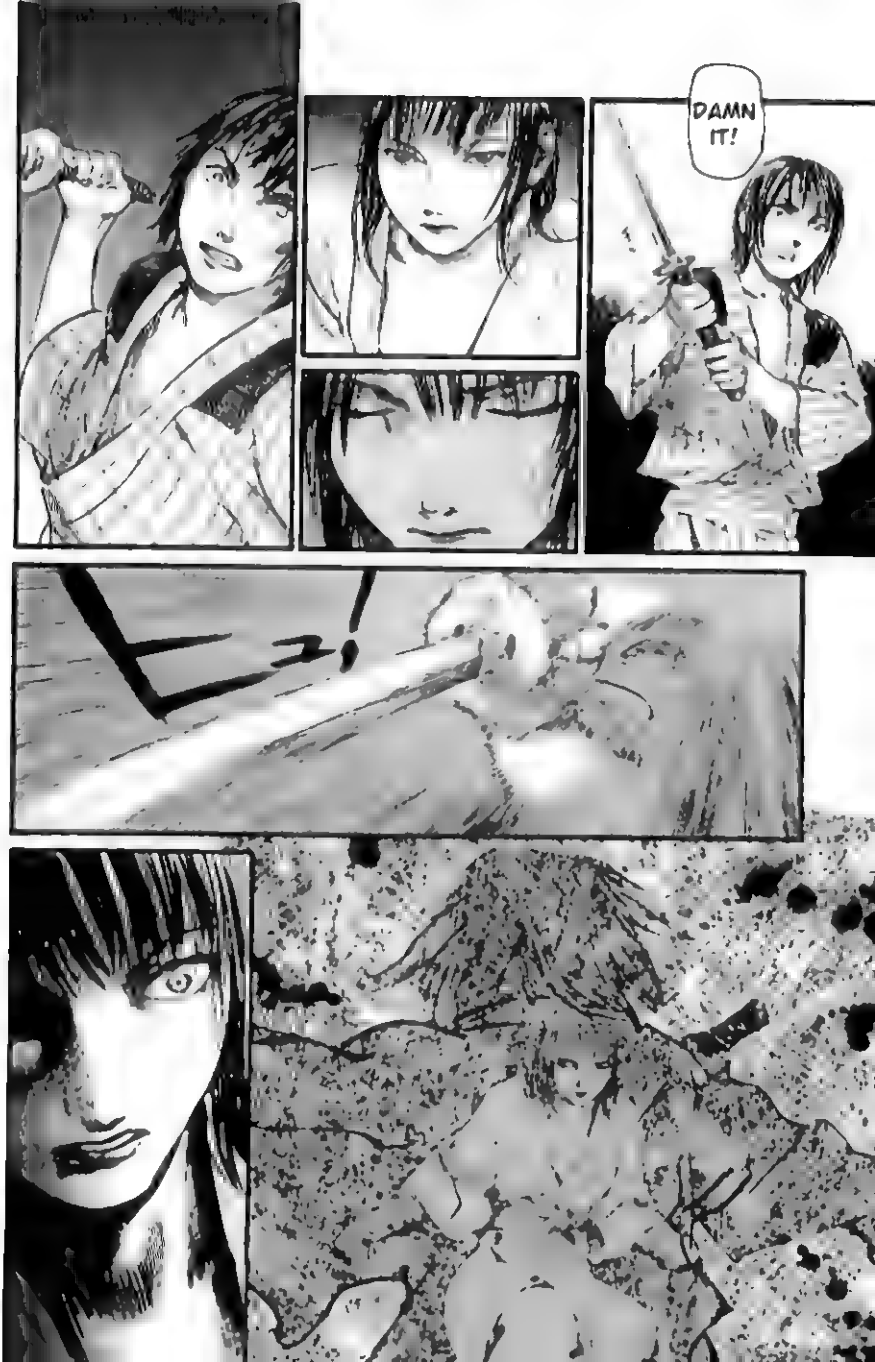
...
I HIRED MANJI AS MY BODY-GUARD
...
BECAUSE I NURTURED A DEEP HATRED OF YOUR FATHER ARAYA KAWAKAMI
...
OR TO BE EXACT
...
RENZO, DO YOU GET THIS? YOU HAVE TO RAISE YOUR SWORD AGAINST ME.
BUT I...
...DON'T WANT TO DIE.
...
WHO KILLED HIM FOR ME.

TO DIE BEFORE IS OUT OF QUESTION.
I CAN DO THIS WITHOUT ARMS AS WELL.
BUT ...
SO RENZO, DO IT!
THERE IS ONE THING IN MY LIFE I STILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF.
I GIVE YOU ...
... MY ARMS.
I KNOW ...
...NO MATTER WHAT MY PHYSICAL STATE, MANJI WILL STAY WITH ME UNTIL THE END.

RIN...
... WAS CLEAR TO ME FROM THE BEGINNING.
THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND MY FATHER
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM!
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

MY DECEASED MOTHER ...
... HAS NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
NEITHER WHY THEY SEPARATED NOR WHAT FATHER DID IN THE PAST.
Nobody tells me anything...
That's why I don't know what to do!
Tell me!
What has my father done to you?!

WHY DON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING ...?!

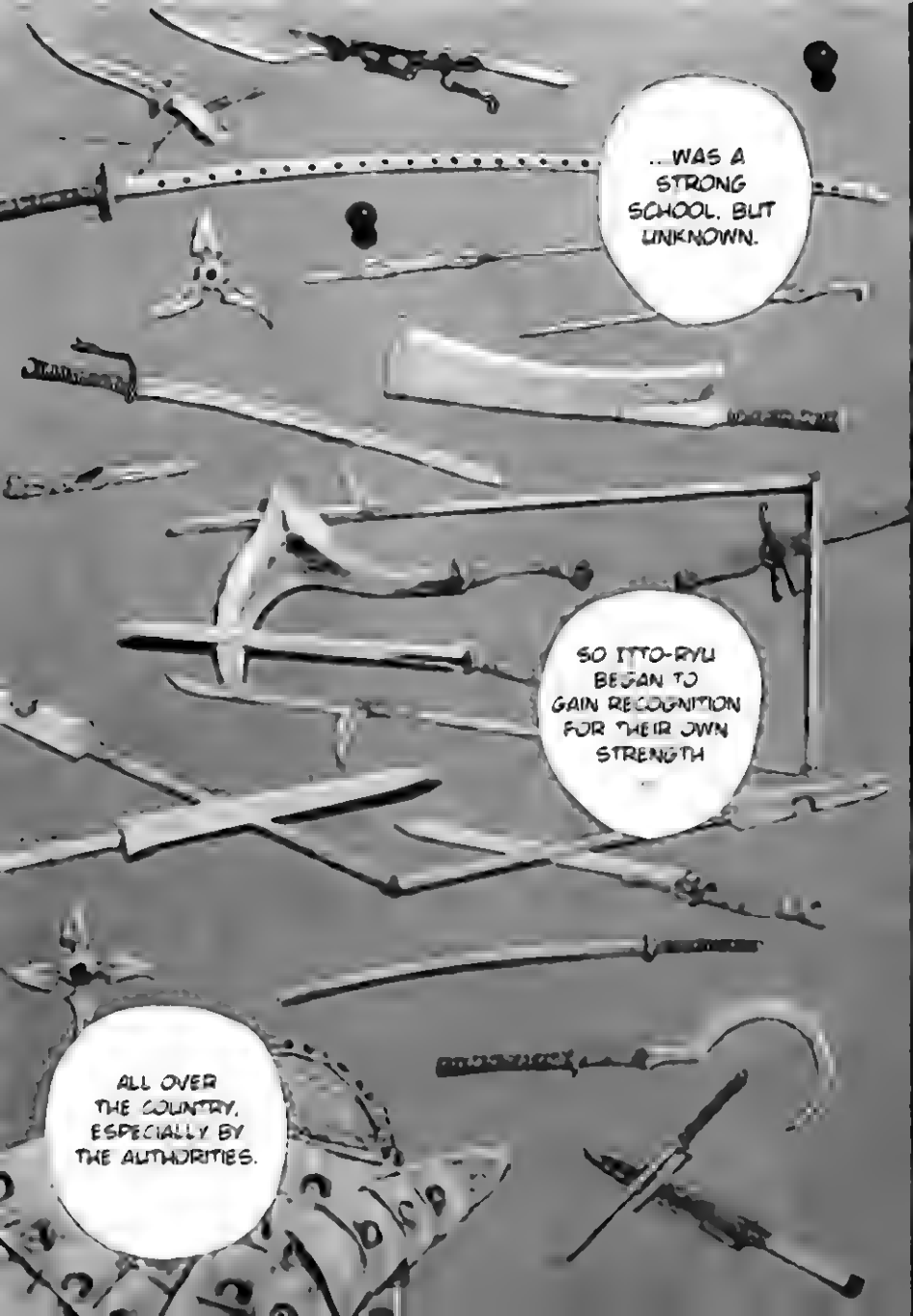

DAMN IT!

MANJI ...!
AH!
THIS IS
THE HAND ...
I DRAW WITH...!

SHK
MAN, THAT WAS CLOSE!
THE POT NEARLY FELL OVER!
AH!

RIN ...
TELL ME ...
DO YOU REMAIN SILENT BECAUSE OF SYMPATHY?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
YOU'RE WRONG! IT'S ABOUT...
...MY OLD COMRADES!
BOY...

I SEE.
MARK MY FOLLOWING WORDS...
?
NO...
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE NAME "ITTO-RYU"?
I WAS A MEMBER OF THAT SCHOOL...
"WAS", TO BE EXACT.
THERE IS A SWORD SCHOOL WHICH IS CALLED LIKE THAT.
ITTO-RYU...
...JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER.


...WAS A STRONG SCHOOL. BUT UNKNOWN.
SO ITTO-RYU BEGAN TO GAIN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR OWN STRENGTH
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY BY THE AUTHORITIES.

AMONG THEM...
ON THE WAY, WE TRAMPLED DOWN COUNTLESS HUMAN LIVES ...
...THE FAMILY OF THIS GIRL.
...THAT YOUR FATHER NEVER LAID HANDS HIMSELF ON HER FAMILY.
LET ME TELL YOU BEFORE-HAND...
I DON'T THINK THAT RIN REMAINS SILENT BECAUSE SHE'S AFRAID OF YOUR REVENGE.
SO YOU STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO HATE RIN AND MANJI AFTER HEARING THIS.

THIS WORLD IS FAR TOO CRUEL FOR A CHILD LIKE YOU, WHO LOST HIS PARENTS...
...TO LIVE A PROPER LIFE ON YOUR OWN IN IT.
RIN KNOWS THAT EXACTLY.
SHE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.
AFTER ALL YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FORCE OF HATE THAN YOU PREFER.
...HOW CONTINUOUS HATE CAN RUIN YOUR LIFE.
SHE JUST KNOWS TOO WELL...
...IT'S OUT OF FALSE CONSIDERATION...
IF SHE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING...
AND I KNOW THAT FEELING MYSELF SOMEWHAT TOO.

KEEP THE NAME OF ITTO-RYU GOOD IN MIND AND GO BACK TO EDO!
BOY...
WE TOOK CARE OF THAT.
... EVERYBODY IN TOWN WILL KNOW THAT NAME.
WHEN YOU ARRIVE ...
... AND WHAT THEY HAVE DONE ...
WHAT GOALS YOUR FATHER AND HIS COMRADES HAD ...
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT US.

IF YOU KNOW EVERY DETAIL...
...ABOUT EVERYTHING, THEN YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION YOURSELF.
IF I MAKE IT BACK TO EDO IN ONE PIECE, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT ALL THIS.
THAT GIRL OVER THERE IS A NINJA, SHE'S INFORMED TOO.
WILL YOU FORGIVE MANJI AND RIN?
OR WHO'S THE ONE YOU ACTUALLY HAVE TO FORGIVE?
WILL YOU NOT FORGIVE THEM?
WHAT IS YOUR FATHER'S LIFE WORTH?
MAKE YOUR DECISION ONLY AFTER KNOWING EVERYTHING.

BETTER GROW UP FIRST MEANWHILE.
EVEN IF IT TAKES YEARS UNTIL YOU'RE ABLE TO DECIDE, IT'S ALRIGHT.
BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY YEARS WILL PASS, THAT MAN WILL THEN STILL APPEAR IN FRONT OF YOU UNCHANGED.
VOLUME 25
END

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